



ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2022- 2023 IN RELATION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SEAT BELTS ON SCHOOL TRANSPORT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2017

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The Act imposes a self-reporting duty on school authorities, who must prepare an annual statement relating both to their compliance with the duty relating to seat belts imposed by section 1 of this Act and also to the actions which they have been taking to promote and assess the wearing of seat belts by pupils travelling on their dedicated school transport services (for instance, the particular policies and procedures which authorities have in place to educate pupils about the wearing of belts and to measure their use).

| | Actions | Outcomes |
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| Compliance with the Fitting of Seat Belts | <p>All Perth & Kinross Council education transport contracts operated by public service vehicles specify the requirement for one seat belt per pupil.</p> <p>At point of tender submission, PSV operators must provide a fleet list with details of each vehicle in their fleet. These details include stating how many seatbelts the vehicle is fitted with and if they are either a 3-point belt or a lap belt.</p> <p>The conditions of contract state the following: PROVISION OF SEAT BELTS</p> <p>6.1 With regard to Local School Bus Service, Education Transport, Additional Support Needs Transport and Community Care Transport Contracts only:</p> <p>6.1.1 Where the vehicle to be used by the Contractor is adapted to carry 9 to 16 passengers, the vehicle shall be fitted with height adjustable inertia reel 3-point lap and diagonal seat belts, or full harnesses, for each seat position. The seat belts and their installation shall meet the relevant standards set by the DfT/DVSA. The Contractor, if requested by the Council, shall supply proof of the relevant seat belt test certification.</p> <p>6.1.2 Where a bus with 17 or more passenger seats is to be used by the Contractor, each seat shall be fitted with either inertia reel 3-point lap and diagonal seat belts or retractable lap belts for each seat position. Lap belts may only be fitted in forward facing non-exposed seats where an appropriate energy</p> | <p>All entitled pupils conveyed to Perth & Kinross Council Primary and Secondary schools on either contracted registered services or closed school contracts are provided with an individual seat fitted with a seatbelt. Therefore, all education transport not only complies with the legislation but goes beyond it.</p> |

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| | <p>absorbing seat or surface is present in front. The seat belts and their installation shall meet the relevant standards set by the DfT/DVSA. The Contractor, if requested by the Council, shall supply proof of the relevant seat belt test certification.</p> <p>6.1.3 If a coach is to be used by the Contractor, each seat shall be fitted with at least a lap belt. Lap belts may only be fitted in forward facing non-exposed seats where an appropriate energy absorbing seat or surface is present in front. The seat belts and their installation shall meet the relevant standards set by the DfT/VOSA. The Contractor, if requested by the Council, shall supply proof of the relevant seat belt test certification.</p> <p>6.2 With regard to Local Bus Service Contracts only, if the Contract Schedule specifies the provision of seat belts, or if the vehicle to be used on the Contract has seat belts even though they were not specified, the seat belts and their installation shall comply with relevant standards set by the DfT/DVSA.</p> <p>6.3 Contractors and their work staff shall ensure that they comply in full with any seat belt wearing requirements for passengers as stipulated by the DfT/Scottish Government, including any legislation giving effect to EU Directive 2003/20. To ensure that passengers are aware about the requirements to wear seatbelts, the Contractor shall prominently display signs and/or pictograms, produced in accordance with the relevant legislation, throughout the vehicle.</p> <p>6.4 With regard to Local School Bus Service, Education Transport, Additional Support Needs Transport and Community Care Transport Contracts only, where the contracted vehicle is adapted to carry 9 to 16 passengers, Contractors shall ensure that passengers always wear the seat belts provided, irrespective of the age of the passenger, unless the Council have specified that an alternative restraint system should be used. Booster cushions or child seats should only be used by passengers if specified by the Council.</p> <p>Perth & Kinross Council's Education and Children's Services staff who book vehicles for school trips ensure that every vehicle they book is fitted with seatbelts.</p> | |
| Promotion of the Wearing of Seat Belts | <p>In smaller vehicles of less than 33 passengers seats, bus drivers have the capacity to remind all pupils aboard to fasten their seatbelts before departure. In terms of primary school pupils, parents are permitted to board the vehicle in the morning to</p> | <p>Parents are directly advised that their child will be provided with a seatbelt and therefore they can re-enforce the</p> |

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| | <p>assist their child to fasten their seatbelt if they are not able to do so. In the afternoon, primary school staff check that each child has their seatbelt fastened on the bus before departure and assists if required. In full size single deck/double deck buses and coaches, pictorial signs are displayed either on the window or the back of the seat in front of each passenger seat equipped with a seat belt. Every parent of an entitled pupil receives a letter prior to the start of the new academic session, this specifically sets out the following:” In addition, important general information about your child’s transport to/from school is available to download at: www.pkc.gov.uk/travellingtoschool. We would be grateful if you could ensure that you and your child also read this online booklet. Every school transport vehicle in Perth and Kinross is fitted with seatbelts and we would be grateful if you could remind your child to ensure they fasten their seatbelt when they are travelling to and from school.”</p> <p>The seatbelt section in the Travelling to School Booklet sets out in the third point in the booklet: “3 Seat Belts All school transport vehicles in Perth and Kinross are fitted with seat belts. Please remind your child that they must fasten their seat belt and keep it fastened during the whole journey.”</p> <p>Each school bus driver is issued with a Code of Conduct in which point 10 sets out the information relating to seatbelts.</p> <p>Perth & Kinross Council’s Public Transport Unit are involved in a joint working exercise with Education and Children’s Services and the Council’s Safer Communities Team Leader to further promote seat belt wearing to pupils within schools.</p> | <p>message to their child to ensure they fasten their seatbelt on every journey to and from school.</p> <p>Outcomes from promotion have also been incorporated within outcomes from assessment of seat belt use below</p> |
| Assessing Seat Belt Use | <p>Drivers can readily observe seatbelt wearing compliance on smaller vehicles and in terms of primary school pupils they have assistance from either a parent or school staff member to ensure the pupil’s belt is fastened.</p> <p>When Public Transport Unit staff undertake site/vehicle surveys of education transport contracts, they check that the vehicle is fitted with the contractually required seatbelts and observe seat belt wearing compliance and if there are any issues with non-compliance they are reported to senior staff at the relevant school.</p> | <p>Negligible level of complaints from drivers, parents or school staff in terms of primary pupil seat belt compliance.</p> <p>Decreased level of complaints from parents of secondary pupils regarding pupils not wearing seatbelts.</p> |