

About Southern Vectis

We are part of The Go-Ahead Group plc, one of the UK's four biggest transport groups. As well as having a comprehensive structure here on the Island, we have all the strengths and benefits of being part of our The Go-Ahead Group and part of its south coast bus and coach division. Nationally the group has 27,000 employees. We are the busiest UK rail operator, our rail businesses include Southern and Virgin Express, the largest operator of buses in London, and a significant national car park and aircraft handling business.

Southern Vectis has been running the Island's buses and coaches since 1929 and our predecessor company since 1921. Today we take around 2500 school pupils to school each day on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council and more still who pay themselves to travel to school.

We run a fleet of around 100 buses and coaches and as well as being the Island's bus operator, we run the largest fleet of coaches on the Island. Our coaches run in the colours of Fountain Coaches, Moss Motors and West Wight coaches, all of which we have acquired over the years.

Our Coaches

Our fleet of 26 coaches based on the Island is all fitted with seat belts and are maintained in our own very extensive workshops.

Our business is directly regulated by the Department for Transport and we have strict rules for maintaining vehicles. All our buses and coaches have to be inspected to MOT standard in our workshops every 28 days, as well as having an annual MOT conducted by external examiners. We have set inspection and maintenance criteria for our vehicles and our workshops are the most extensive and comprehensive anywhere on the Island. We have the only private MOT testing facility for buses coaches and heavy goods vehicles on the Island.

Our Drivers

We train our drivers ourselves in our own training department. We have three instructors who train new recruits to pass all elements of the 'bus driving' test. They also train them in customer care and the complex operational requirements of their role.

We have our own regional training centre based in Eastleigh, where our staff have to spend a week every five years to first gain and then maintain, the new 'Certificate of Professional Competence' qualification, covering all the aspects of the job, both driving and customer care related.

All our drivers are able to study for their NVQ qualification for driving and customer care and new trainees are automatically entered.

Our drivers are all trained at our own training facility in Newport to drive efficiently and our buses and coaches are fitted with GPS enabled telematics systems to monitor and report on their driving standards.

All our drivers are CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked.

To join us new recruits will have passed through a rigorous selection process that selects those who are best suited to meet customer care standards. Unlike many bus companies, we insist that our trainees have customer service / retail experience.

Drivers are continuously monitored through four separate continuous sets of 'mystery traveller'.

