

## **EBSR NEWSLETTER – Issue no. 7**

### **National Codes**

#### **1      *Background***

Historically, there has been no consistency in the codes used nationally to identify operators, nor is there a single source of information about schools, colleges and universities or their holiday dates. As EBSR gets rolled out and public transport information gets shared more widely, this lack of agreed codes to uniquely identify these features has been identified as a problem that needs to be addressed.

Earlier this year, Transport Direct, working in collaboration with Traveline, commissioned Transport & Travel Research Ltd (TTR) to carry out preliminary work to review these issues and to establish possible sources of information that could be used to provide National Codes Sets covering operators, educational establishments and holiday dates.

That work was completed recently and the outputs have been provided to Traveline for them to consider how best to use the information to support such initiatives as the proposed national timetable database.

#### **2      *National Operator Codes***

There is currently no agreed set of national operator codes, and therefore regional systems maintain their own identification codes. However, even these may not be unique within a region, since local authorities may also create their own codes which are different for the same operator from that used in a neighbouring authority. Systems that draw on this data, such as Transport Direct's journey planning portal, the National Coach Services Database (NCSD), Electronic Bus Services Registration (EBSR) and the proposed National Timetable Dataset, therefore cannot provide such codes, or have to rely on look-up tables to reconcile the different codes used across local authority and regional boundaries that may not always be accurate. This makes the sharing and exchange of services data more difficult and less efficient than it could be and reduces the effectiveness of systems.

The work carried out in this project proposed a set of unique codes for each operator which, as far as possible, used the coding mechanisms already in place in traveline regions. That way it was felt that that the proposed code-set would be based on the most authoritative source of information available at this time.

However, it was clear from the initial analysis of that data that there are even inconsistencies within some regions where authorities have used different codes for the same operator, let alone seeing inconsistencies between regions.

Nevertheless this information did provide the start point for the creation of a national set of operator codes, and an initial set of codes has been created and handed over to traveline for them to consider how best to manage this and distribute it to those who need it in the future.

The approach that was taken involved creating an initial database using existing Traveline datasets, removing duplicates from this data, and then building cross references to other data e.g. the VOSA PSV 'O' licences. The result has been a set of records that uniquely identify an operating entity. A unique four-digit code has been created for each operator. Samples of this information are shown in Figures 1 & 2 below.

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	VOSA PSV Licence Name	VOSALicenseNo1	Traveline Owner	NOC CODE	Operator Public Name	Operator Reference Name	Vehicle Mode	MDV Ref	
124	IPSWICH BUSES LTD		EA	IPSW	Ipswich Buses		Bus	IB	
125	KONECT BUS LIMITED	PF0002189	EA	KCTB	Konectbus	Konectbus (Norfolk)	Bus	KC	
126			EA	LAMS	L.A.M.B.S		Bus	LAMS	
127	ANDREW MARK LEWIS	PF0001658	EA	LEWC	Lewis Coaches	Lewis Coaches (Brandon)	Bus	LEW	
128	MICHAEL JOHN PERRY	PF0000280	EA	PRYM	M J & T C Perry	M J & T C Perry (Bury St Edmunds)	Bus	PM	
129	MACKENZIE COACHES LTD	PF1013811	EA	MCCH	MacKenzie Coaches	MacKenzie Coaches (Bury St Edmunds)	Bus	MC	
130	AFSC LIMITED	PF1078571	EA	AYLM	Marett's Chariots		Bus	AYL	
131	MARK JAMES CURLEY	PF1057829	EA	CRLY	Mark James Curley	MARK JAMES CURLEY	Bus		
132	J P LLOYD LTD	PF1019794	EA	MATC	Matthews Coaches	Matthews Coaches (King's Lynn)	Bus	MA	
133	MULLEYS MOTORWAYS LTD	PF0000070	EA	MULM	Mulleys Motorways		Bus	MU	
134	NEALS TRAVEL LTD	PF0001287	EA	NEAL	Neals	Neals Travel (Ely)	Bus	NL	
135	H S NEAVE & SON LTD	PF0000466	EA	NEAV	Neaves Coaches	Neaves Coaches (Great Yarmouth)	Bus	NE	
136	NIGHTINGALES OF BECCLES LTD	PF0001581	EA	NGBC	Nightingales of Beccles		Bus	NGB	
137	NORSE COMMERCIAL SERVICES LIMITED	PF1021451	EA	NCXS	Norfolk County Services		Bus	NCX	
138	GO WEST TRAVEL LTD	PF0001611	EA	NFKG	Norfolk Green		Bus	NFG	
139	OPTUA LTD	PF1053792	EA	OPTU	Optua Community Transport	Optua Community Transport	Bus		
140			EA	PDRA	Orton Community Transport Association		Bus	PDR	
141			EA	OBUS	Our Bus		Bus	OB	
142	JEREMY W CUSHING AND DARREN J LITTLEWOOD	PF0002480	EA	OURH	Our Hire	Our Hire	Bus		

**Figure 1**

*The National Operator Codes were created using data from each of the Traveline regions*

Field Name	Contents
NationalOperatorCode	WDBC
OperatorPublicName	Wilts & Dorset Bus Company
OperatorReferenceName	
VOSA_PSVLicenceName	Wilts and Dorset Bus Co Ltd
VOSALicenseNo1	PH0005004
Traveline Owner	SW
Vehicle Mode	Bus
Parent	Go South Coast
Ultimate Parent	Go Ahead Group
Look-up code in SELMA db	WD
Look-up code in SWPTI db	WD
Look-up code in Wales db	*WD

**Figure 2**

*Example of an Operator Record*

In the short term these codes will be managed via spreadsheets, but in the long term it is hoped that the full system will be managed using a more flexible database system, possibly one that is web based.

### **3      *Serviced Organisations***

There is also a need for greater precision in the definition of services and timetables. One of the important features of TXC is the part of the schema that deals with Serviced Organisations. This provides the ability to uniquely identify establishments such as schools, colleges and universities, and workplaces that have special public transport services, and then define the public transport provided and the days of operation linked to the opening dates of those facilities. This, however, requires the ability to uniquely identify these establishments in order to clearly define the services that will operate on any given day. Consequently, another element to the work undertaken by TTR was to establish if it was possible to uniquely identify such Serviced Organisations.

Research identified a number of resources that could potentially be used to create such information. Amongst the resources that were identified were:

- An existing coding system for educational establishments in England and Wales (EduBase)
- A similar, though different, system for Scotland
- The UCAS system, which provides information on Universities

In the EduBase system (and the system available in Scotland), each establishment has a unique ID number that is also linked to the local authority in which it is situated by using a unique code number. This provides the basis for identifying individual establishments and linking them to NaPTAN & NPTG, even though the local authority code numbers are different. The example in figure 3 below illustrates the unique ID code for the school and its local authority area. The UCAS system also provides a mechanism for creating unique codes for higher education establishments.

This work has thus provided an authoritative naming and coding mechanism for these establishments at the level of Local Education Authority within England, Wales and Scotland.

A new UK Government took office on 11 May. As a result the content on this site may not reflect current Government policy. All statutory guidance and legislation published on this site continues to reflect the current legal position unless indicated otherwise. To view the new Department for Education website, please go to <http://www.education.gov.uk>

**EduBase2** in partnership with Texunatex

**Establishment: King Edward VI School**

Status: Open

URN: 124408 LA: 860 Staffordshire Establishment No: 4087

Headteacher	Mr K W Maycock	Special Classes	No Special Classes
Phase of Education	Secondary	Boarders	No Boarders
Type of Establishment	Community School	Nursery Provider	Not applicable
Age Range	11 - 18	Special Measures	Not in special measures
Gender	Mixed	Fresh Start	Not applicable
Religious Character	Does not apply	Trust Flag	Not supported by a Trust
School Capacity	1363	UKPRN	10003633
Total Number of Children	1398	Urban / Rural	Urban > 10k - less sparse
		Sixth Form	Has a sixth form

**Figure 3**  
Extract from the EduBase System

This information has now been collated from these sources to provide a full set of codes for every educational establishment. It has been handed over to Traveline as a set of spreadsheets, and some examples of these follow. The row highlighted in Figure 4 corresponds with the EduBase extract for that school shown in Figure 3 above:-

Table1 [Read-Only] [Compatibility Mode] - Microsoft Excel									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Suffix	Serviced Organisation Name	Serviced Organisation Code	Nature of Organisation	Phase of Education	Local Education Authority Name	Local Education Authority Code	DfT LA Code	NaPTAN Admin Area Name
1	U	The University of Aberdeen	A20	Further Education	Further Education	Aberdeen	9100	9100	Aberdeen
2	U	University of Abertay Dundee	A30	Further Education	Further Education	Dundee	9180	9180	Dundee
3	U	Abertay University	A40	Further Education	Further Education	Ceredigion	6105	6105	Ceredigion
4	U	ALDA (The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts)	A42	Further Education	Further Education	Wandsworth	212	5960	Greater London
5	U	Accington & Rossendale College	A44	Further Education	Further Education	Lancashire	888	2315	Lancashire
6	U	The College of Agriculture, Food and the Environment	A45	Further Education	Further Education	Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland
7	U	American International University	A50	Further Education	Further Education	Westminster	213	5990	Greater London
8	U	St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	104380	Voluntary Aided School	Primary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3880	U	St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	104381	Voluntary Aided School	Primary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3881	U	St Paul's Church of England Aided School	104382	Voluntary Aided School	Primary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3882	U	The Giffard Catholic Primary School	104383	Voluntary Aided School	Primary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3883	U	St Michael's Church of England Aided School	104384	Voluntary Aided School	Primary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3884	U	The Northcote School	104385	Community School	Secondary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3885	U	Highfields Science Specialist School	104386	Community School	Secondary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3886	U	Deansfield Community School	104387	Community School	Secondary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3887	U	Smestow School, A Specialist	104389	Community School	Secondary	Wolverhampton	336	4635	West Midlands
3888	U	St Martin de Porres Primary School	109639	Voluntary Aided School	Primary	Luton	821	205	Luton
7675	U	Sacred Heart Primary School	109640	Voluntary Aided School	Primary	Luton	821	205	Luton
7676	U	Goldington Middle School	109642	Foundation School	Middle deemed Secondary	Bedford	822	245	Bedford
7677	U	Redbourn Upper School and Community School	109643	Community School	Secondary	Central Bedfordshire	823	225	Central Bedfordshire
7678	U	Eltonbury Middle School	109644	Foundation School	Middle deemed Secondary	Central Bedfordshire	823	225	Central Bedfordshire
7679	U	King Edward VI School	124408	Community School	Secondary	Staffordshire	860	3450	Staffordshire
19847	E	Nether Stowe School A Special	124409	Community School	Secondary	Staffordshire	860	3450	Staffordshire
19848	E	Saxon Hill School	124520	Community Special School	[Not Applicable]	Staffordshire	860	3450	Staffordshire
19849	E	Queen's Croft High School	124521	Community Special School	[Not Applicable]	Staffordshire	860	3450	Staffordshire
19850	E	Two Rivers Primary School	124522	Community Special School	[Not Applicable]	Staffordshire	860	3450	Staffordshire
19851	E	Wightwick Hall School	124523	Community Special School	[Not Applicable]	Staffordshire	860	3450	Staffordshire
19852	E	Greenhall Nursery	124524	Community Special School	[Not Applicable]	Staffordshire	860	3450	Staffordshire
19853	E	Old Warren House School	124526	Pupil Referral Unit	[Not Applicable]	Suffolk	935	3500	Suffolk
19854	E	Parkside Pupil Referral Unit	124527	Pupil Referral Unit	[Not Applicable]	Suffolk	935	3500	Suffolk
19855	E	Westbridge Pupil Referral Unit	124528	Pupil Referral Unit	[Not Applicable]	Suffolk	935	3500	Suffolk

**Figure 4**  
Extract from Serviced Organisations Data

Figure 5, below, illustrates the different codings used at the local authority level and reconciles these with NaPTAN. This is important in order to provide consistency with data coming from different sources that use different codes for the same entity.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	EduBase/SE Local Education Authority Name	EduBase LA Code	DfT LA Code	NAPLAN Admin Area Name	NAPLAN Admin Area ID	NAPLAN ATCO Code	NAPLAN District Name
1							
2	Aberdeen City	Scotland	9100	Aberdeen	111	639	
3	Aberdeenshire	Scotland	9110	Aberdeenshire	112	630	
4	Angus	Scotland	9120	Angus	113	649	
5	Argyll & Bute	Scotland	9130	Argyll & Bute	114	607	
6	Barking and Dagenham	301	5060	Greater London	82	490	Barking and Dagenham
7	Barnet	302	5090	Greater London	82	490	Barnet
8	Barnsley	370	4405	South Yorkshire	99	370	Barnsley
9	Bath and North East Somerset	800	110	Bath & North East Somerset	1	018	
10	Bedford	822	245	Bedford	69	020	
11	Bexley	303	5120	Greater London	82	490	Bexley
12	Birmingham	330	4605	West Midlands	105	430	Birmingham
13	Blackburn with Darwen	889	2305	Blackburn with Darwen	2	258	
14	Blackpool	890	2310	Blackpool	3	259	
15	Blaenau Gwent	677	6205	Blaenau Gwent	4	532	
16	Bolton	350	4205	Lancashire	87	250	Bolton
17	Bournemouth	837	1205	Bournemouth	5	129	
18	Bracknell Forest	867	305	Bracknell Forest	6	038	
19	Bradford	380	4705	South Yorkshire	99	370	Bradford
20	Brent	304	5150	Greater London	82	490	Brent
21	Bridgend	672	6405	Bridgend	7	551	
22	Brighton and Hove	846	1405	Brighton and Hove	8	149	
23	Bristol City of	801	120	Bristol	9	010	
24	Bromley	305	5180	Greater London	82	490	Bromley
25	Buckinghamshire	825	430	Buckinghamshire	70	040	

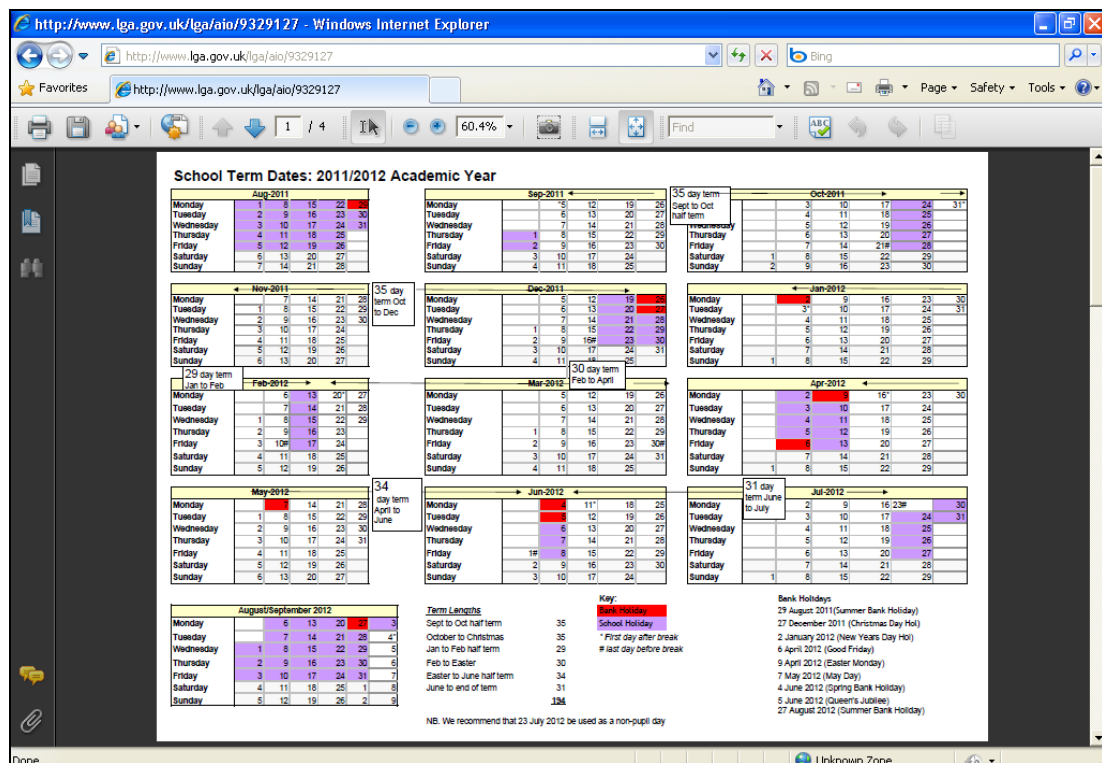
**Figure 5**  
*Reconciliation of Code Numbers*

## 4 Holiday Dates

Having established a set of codes that provide unique IDs for each Serviced Organisation, the final task was to identify a source of holiday information. The work carried out identified some potential sources for this information:

- The LGA provide recommended Term dates and holiday dates for a period of up to 2½ to 3 years, though individual authorities then decide whether to use these dates or vary them (see Figure 6 below)
- The Traffic Statistics team in the DfT already collect information on school term dates for authorities in England, Scotland and Wales for the current year (see Figure 7 below)
- Bank Holiday dates are also published some years in advance; particularly useful when an additional holiday is added for some major event (e.g. the Queen's Jubilee in 2012)

However, it was also clear that some information was likely to be only available locally. This includes local holiday information e.g. for local town holidays in Scotland and dates of "occasional" school holidays such as INSET days for individual schools



**Figure 6**  
LGA Recommended School Term Dates for 2011/2012

Microsoft Excel - Table 2							
DfT LA Code							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	DfT LA Code	DfT LA name	Spring Term 1 Start	Spring Half term start	Spring Term 1 End	Spring Term 2 Start	Spring Term 2 End
2	110	Bath & North East	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
3	120	Bristol	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
4	130	North Somerset	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
5	140	South Gloucestershire	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
6	205	Luton	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
7	225	Bedfordshire	05-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
8	305	Bracknell Forest	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
9	310	West Berkshire	06-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
10	315	Reading	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
11	320	Slough	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
12	325	Windsor & Maidenhead	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
13	330	Wokingham	05-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
14	415	Milton Keynes	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
15	430	Buckinghamshire	05-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
16	505	Peterborough	05-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
17	515	Cambridgeshire	05-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
18	605	Halton - e 26/10/2009	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
19	610	Warrington	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
20	615	Cheshire	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
21	710	Hartlepool	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
22	720	Redcar & Cleveland	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
23	730	Middlesbrough	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
24	740	Stockton-on-Tees	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
25	810	Cornwall	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
26	835	Isles of Scilly e 26/10/2009	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
27	900	Cumbria	05-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
28	1020	Derby	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
29	1050	Derbyshire	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	19-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	22-Feb-1
30	1105	Plymouth	04-Jan-10	15-Feb-10	16-Feb-10	12-Feb-10	17-Feb-1

**Figure 7**  
School Term Dates (source Road Traffic & Road Length Statistics Section - DfT)

## **5      *Next Steps***

This work identified potential sources of information that could be used to help create national codes sets for these purposes. As mentioned, the work was carried out in collaboration with Traveline and all of the information and data has now been handed over to Traveline to consider how it might be used to support their current initiatives, particularly the national timetable dataset.

## **6      *Further Informaiton***

For further information about this newsletter or any other aspect of EBSR, please email Transport Direct at [ebssr@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ebssr@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

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