

EBSR Help Sheet ACTING AS AN AGENT FOR EBSR

1 Background

Many medium sized operators and virtually all smaller operators do not use scheduling systems (if they use such systems at all) that are currently capable of producing EBSRs. Such operators are unlikely to make the switch to EBSR without support of some description and Local Authorities (and other third parties) are in considered to be in an ideal position to support these operators by submitting EBSRs on their behalf; especially since most smaller operators largely operate their services under contract to local authorities.

2 The EBSR Process

Describe how the data flow will work under full EBSR and EDT. Describe what the big operators are doing and will be doing with EBSR.

Large operators that have begun to make the switch to EBSR have invested in new scheduling systems that have the EBSR functionality built into them. In this way the production of the EBSR becomes a by-product of their service planning and schedules preparation.

Few smaller operators have this type of facility. Even where they do have limited scheduling systems those systems may not be capable of producing EBSRs or the operator will not be able to make the business case for investment in required upgrades. A few years ago, Transport Direct recognised this problem and developed a prototype on-line EBSR system. That development was never completed because it was overtaken by other initiatives. Now a number of private sector companies have registered an interest in taking this development to the stage of producing an on-line self-service system for registrations. Even though this would be a significant development, there are still likely to be operators that would not be able to use this type of system. It is considered that agents will fill this gap and support those operators that are unable to invest in or use such systems.

Because many smaller operators operate a large proportion of their services under contract to a local authority, this gives authorities the opportunity to embed EBSR into their internal processes. If, for example, the draft route, stops and timetable details for a new tendered service are prepared in the Authority's systems, this would provide the basis for the production of the future EBSR from that system.

3 Acting as an Agent for Smaller Operators

To act as an agent for an operator, Local Authorities and other organisations will need to inform VOSA of the proposed arrangement and VOSA will need to ensure that the operator has agreed to the third party acting as an agent for them. In this way the operator will be responsible for the full contents of the registration even though it is being prepared and submitted by somebody else on their behalf.

Operators will still be responsible for making the necessary payments, though the agent will be able to do this on their behalf and reclaim the costs from the operator.

4 How Do I Get Further Help and Advice?

If you need more information or help and advice about acting as an agent for EBSR please contact VOSA at ebsr@vosa.gov.uk or contact Transport Direct at ebsr@dft.gsi.gov.uk