

For attention of TRA

Ref. AS0067

Submission from stakeholder

Stagecoach is the largest bus and coach operator in the UK with a fleet of 8,230 vehicles running regional networks and inter-urban routes. We work closely with local and national governments to support greener, smarter, more inclusive transport – helping reduce congestion, cut emissions and boost local economies.

While over 15% of our fleet is now electric (and growing), the majority remain ICE vehicles and are very much part of our decarbonisation strategy. Stagecoach has trialled biofuel alternatives to standard fossil diesel, including HVO and high biodiesel blends.

The resulting decision has been use high biodiesel blends, currently supplied by a UK producer and supplier due to suitability with our operations, the performance of emission reductions and reliability of supply. The blend level is currently at B20 level, although this can change. In the past we have also used B100 on select fleets.

Over 100 of our depots are supplied with high biodiesel blends amounting to around 7,000 vehicles and around 160,000,000 litres per year.

Consequently Stagecoach is against the imports of subsidised fuels that compete unfairly with local UK produced biofuels. It is important to us to have UK production and supply that is reliable and provides a competitive alternative. A reduction of the options for Stagecoach and a reliance on non-UK biofuels could restrict our abilities to decarbonise effectively and ultimately lead to greater costs to consumers.

Therefore we are strongly supportive of trade measures being put in place to counter the subsidies on US HVO that have been identified by the TRA.