



## COVID-19: Supply of Personal Protective Equipment

### Public Accounts Committee Inquiry

The Confederation of Passenger Transport UK is the trade association of the bus and coach industry, representing over 1000 operators including the large bus groups, other large bus and coach operators and numerous SME operators and suppliers

The inquiry is intending to examine the preparedness and response in the supply of PPE in England, including the scale of and reasons for shortfalls in supply

The definition of PPE used by the Health and Safety Executive is that it is equipment that will protect the user against health or safety risks at work. It can include items such as safety helmets, gloves, eye protection, high-visibility clothing, safety footwear and safety harnesses. It also includes respiratory protective equipment (RPE)

In our dealings with Government especially during the early phase of the pandemic, we were asked questions about the supply of 'PPE' in a much wider sense, mainly focusing on the supply of face masks and hand sanitiser

Our members reported some difficulties in obtaining adequate supplies of hand sanitiser, but these supply issues were soon resolved

CPT produced a number of risk assessments covering many different operation types, did not include the use of masks and gloves as mitigations against the potential risks to drivers, based on Government guidance. Instead, the assessments focussed on reducing risks by introducing other mitigations such as having screens installed on all vehicles so that the driver is safely separated from passengers, introducing enhanced cleaning regimes for vehicles, capacity limits and ensuring adequate ventilation

Some operators did make supplies of masks and/or gloves available to drivers and other frontline staff but generally the take up was relatively low, and there were no reported supply issues for these items

Overall, other than a minor issue obtaining sufficient supplies of hand sanitiser in the first few weeks of April, the PSV sector did not encounter issues obtaining the types of PPE being covered by this inquiry

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