

Service adjustments for some franchised bus routes

The Transport Department (TD) said today (January 6) that, to align with the Government's announcement of the tightened social distancing measures yesterday (January 5) with a view to reducing public traffic, social functions and crowd gatherings to the greatest extent, which serve to curb the spread of the virus in the community, Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB), New World First Bus Services Limited (NWFB) and Citybus Limited have submitted applications to the TD for temporary service adjustments for some bus routes after reviewing their operations and services to cope with the decreasing passenger demand and better utilise resources.

The TD has examined the applications taking into account factors such as the impact of the proposed service adjustments on passenger waiting time, efficient use of bus resources deployment and public acceptability of the proposed frequency adjustments, and made reference to the extent of the TD's previously approved temporary service adjustments for bus routes related to similar tightening social distancing measures, and has approved the following bus companies to adjust the frequencies of a total of 341 routes after 8pm from tomorrow (January 7) to January 20. The details are as follows:

Bus company	No. of routes approved for frequency adjustments
KMB	226
NWFB	40
Citybus (except airport and North Lantau routes)	46
KMB/NWFB jointly operated	16
KMB/Citybus jointly operated	13
Total	341

Among the routes approved for frequency adjustments, the headway before 8pm (during peak and off-peak periods) will remain unchanged while the headway after 8pm in general will be lengthened by no more than 10 minutes, and the extended headway will not exceed 30 minutes. The TD has requested the bus companies to closely monitor the change in passenger demand and consider strengthening services whenever necessary, and to allow more space for passengers if resources permit.

The service adjustments for the relevant bus routes have been approved for a period of 14 days. The TD will consider the actual circumstances to review the service adjustments, and keep close communication with the bus companies to closely monitor the operational situation and adjust the

services according to passenger demand.

In addition, the frequencies of individual bus routes mainly serving tourists and heading to land boundary control points and the airport have already been adjusted to limited service or have service suspended due to the enhanced anti-epidemic measures on boundary control implemented earlier.