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STAGECOACH WINS TRANSPORT FOR LONDON BUS CONTRACTS

Stagecoach has won £12.5m of business in the latest round of bus contracts awarded by Transport for London.

London Buses has announced that Stagecoach, which already operates around 1,200 buses in the capital, has retained three existing routes and won a number of additional contracts previously operated by First and Arriva.

Stagecoach has retained the 174, 175 and 496 routes, all of which are operated from the company's Romford depot.

The additional contracts, which are for five years, include three routes previously operated by First. Routes 257 (Chingford Station-Stratford), 296 (Ilford-Romford) and schooldays service 674 (Romford-Harold Hill) will be run by Stagecoach from the autumn.

Route 103, which runs from North Romford to Rainham, is being taken over from Arriva.

Les Warneford, Stagecoach UK Bus Managing Director, said: "Our London bus business is forging ahead and continuing to win new business. This is a direct result of our focus on competitive tendering, excellent operational performance and a good working relationship with Transport for London."

Stagecoach's London bus business grew by nearly 20% in the 2003-04 financial year. The company, which has a 100% low floor fleet in London, has a 16% share of the market in the capital.

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