



# Press Release

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## **SUMMER THEME PARK BUS LINK AIMS TO EASE CONGESTION**

CrossCountry, one of Britain's largest train operators, will be supporting a summer shuttle bus link between Tamworth railway station and Drayton Manor Theme Park throughout the school summer holidays.

The train operator is working in partnership with the popular family theme park to provide two morning and two afternoon bus links on Fridays and Saturdays from 26 June to 29 August. It's hoped the shuttle bus will help reduce congestion around the Tamworth area during Drayton Manor's peak summer season and increase visitors coming to the area via rail.

"We want to make travelling to Drayton Manor as easy as possible this summer for families", said Clare Shufflebotham, Partnership Manager for CrossCountry. "CrossCountry operate 185 services stopping at Tamworth each week and therefore we offer a great, simple alternative to using the car. We've also made it as straightforward as possible for people to book online with our new rail and bus 'combination' ticket specifically for Drayton Manor."

Colin Bryan, Managing Director, Drayton Manor Theme Park, added: "The launch of this new service from Tamworth station is great news for families visiting Drayton Manor Theme Park this summer. With so much to see and do at the theme park, including the hugely popular Thomas Land™, we attract visitors from all over the UK and for many people, catching the train is a cheaper and easier option than driving. The shuttle service will not only help people using the train, but will also ease congestion on the roads around the theme park during what is our busiest time of the year."

**The CrossCountry bus link will depart from Tamworth railway station at 10:30 and 11:00 and leave Drayton Manor for the return journey at 16:00 and 16:30. Drayton Manor rail and bus 'combination' tickets are available online at [crosscountrytrains.co.uk](http://crosscountrytrains.co.uk)**

ENDS

**Please find notes to Editors, CrossCountry facts and figures below.  
For more information feel free to contact us on 0121 2006115 or by email to  
[communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk](mailto:communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk)**

#### **Notes to editors**

- Pictured launching the new bus service with a giant bus ticket is CrossCountry's Partnership Manager Clare Shufflebotham and Colin Bryan, Managing Director of Drayton Manor Theme Park
- Information on Drayton Manor Theme Park is available via their official website [www.draytonmanor.co.uk](http://www.draytonmanor.co.uk)
- CrossCountry started operating on 11 November 2007. The franchise, which is the most extensive in the UK, will run until 31 March 2016. For further information on CrossCountry services and future franchise plans log on to [www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk](http://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk)
- Arriva is one of the largest private sector providers of passenger transport in Europe, employing more than 43,500 people (including share of associate companies) and providing more than one billion passenger journeys every year
- Arriva provides transport services including buses, trains, commuter coaches and water buses, and operates in 12 European countries: Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the UK

#### **CrossCountry facts and figures:**

STATIONS SERVED: 118

ROUTE MILES: 1,654

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 293

PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 30 million passenger journeys a year anticipated

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 1,700

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: 08.20 Aberdeen to Penzance (774 miles)