

Tsunami appeal-now 75 buses

Week two of Asia Bus Response has produced a further 10 vehicles and the promise of many more to come.

New companies joining the scheme are: Translink, Northern Ireland's main public transport provider; East Yorkshire Motor Services; Emsworth & District Motor Services, Hampshire; Brentons of Blackheath; PRP Training of Pembrokeshire; and Evans Coaches, TRC Coaches and Harris Coaches, all of South Wales.

The UK-wide appeal for vehicles, to help rebuild communities and livelihoods in the worst hit areas of Sri Lanka and Indonesia, is a practical response to the need for reconstruction and rebuilding of infrastructure following the devastation of the tsunami.

David Begg of the Chairman of the Commission for Integrated Transport said of the appeal, 'The UK bus and coach sector has already given generously to the appeal in both vehicles and money but this has been a catastrophic disaster and we need to ensure



this generosity continues.

I would urge transport operators, local authorities and parts suppliers to dig deep and release the resources that will mean so much to help recovery. Demand for vehicles, spares and equipment is going to grow fast as roads that were swept away are rebuilt and vast areas become accessible once again.

We cannot begin to comprehend the devastation that has hit transport infrastructure. Without these vehicles it will be impossible for whole regions to get back to normal life. I urge you all to be as generous as you can.

For further information contact Mitch de Faria on 01664 561711 or e-mail to info@asiabusresponse.co.uk. Local authority contact is Andrew Varley on 01772 263336 or e-mail andrew.varley@env.lancsc.gov.uk. The website for the appeal is www.asiabusresponse.co.uk.