

**Submission
No 80**

INQUIRY INTO PRIVATISATION OF BUS SERVICES

Name: Robin O'Donoghue

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Due to the privatisation of government run public transport in Newcastle, I am an employee that had to transfer to the new operator, I was not old enough to retire, I was also too old to find another full time position and still in need of full time work. During the last 4 years I have worked for a private company that has changed the bus service so much that to get to my place of work it takes 2 buses or long walks to catch only 1 bus and that is if I have a shift starting at a time suitable to the time table which is very rare in both directions. We currently drive around in empty buses and any passengers that we do carry no longer pay a fare, I'm reluctant for my safety to actually request anyone to pay. Employees are harassed daily to work extra hours as they can't keep enough workers to do the work they have introduced. In my 21 years driving for Newcastle buses I have never seen so many people start the job then leave soon afterwards.

Due to the rescheduled routes and rosters my income has not changed since 2017 and it's getting more and more difficult to even go to work, many people I work with are suffering with depression and anxiety due to the many hours they now have to spend at work to cover their cost of living. Privatisation has ruined my career and caused so much anxiety, I worry every day I work for my safety and mental health.