

Estateman system

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FirstGroup

FirstGroup is a transport company and the largest bus operator in the UK, with a UK Rail Division with three Train Operating Companies. We have 250 properties in the UK bus company, 350 in the Rail Division. The properties are in the main bus depots and railway stations and are a mixture of owned and leased.

We use the Estateman system as a Asset Terrier rather than an accounting package and we have had the system extensively bespoke to meet our needs as a transport company. The customisation has included for example, the ability to record information on fleet size and an environmental database which we have built on considerably over the last two years.

The system is very user friendly, it is easy to drill down to extract information and when the new Report Wizard is released it will be much easier to produce our own reports from the system. We made the right buying decision with Estateman; we would buy the system again.

In developing our use of it in the future, we are considering putting Estateman on the Company Intranet in around nine months time which will make property information much more accessible throughout the company. We may also look at linking the system to the Group's central financial system which would make it much easier to integrate the relevant property information. At the moment our managing agents do the rent collection, but we may consider doing the rent collection ourselves from the Estateman system in the future.'