

Gearbox flaw cripples bus fleet

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AGE
26/3/87

The Metropolitan Transit Authority has withdrawn from service at least 20 buses at its North Fitzroy depot because of a serious problem with their automatic gearboxes.

It is believed that up to 120 of the Met's 320 buses are fitted with German-built ZF transmissions, which are no longer being manufactured.

The company which supplied

the gearboxes also sold the Met a series of second-hand valves for the buses, though it is believed it agreed to supply new parts.

This was discovered by Met engineers during special tests after some of the parts were found to be faulty. It is believed that only some of the valves can be used. It is not known how much the Government paid for the parts.

The gearboxes are fitted in up to 90 of the Met's Volvo buses and up to 30 Nationals which are

based at the North Fitzroy depot. Together, these vehicles form an estimated one third of the Met's bus fleet.

Transport sources say the problems, which were discovered last year, are disrupting bus services from the depot, the Met's biggest.

The sources say the Met is concerned that the gearboxes in question are no longer being produced, and that replacement parts are difficult to get.

\$275,000

M.A.W. Radiator Info

Alloc 2000

35 ml / l. water

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