

Our History

Business Express		Reality Group
1895		Kay&Co. founded by Kilbourne Kay
1948		GUS transport (White Arrow) established in Nottingham
1971	Home Delivery Services launched after the Postal strike of 1971. The first depot to be opened was Sunderland.	
1980	Network of 32 depots	Network of depots implemented data transfer/planning systems
1982		Dedicated heavy and large operation opened (specialised operations)
		Droitwich sort centre opened.
1988	Home Delivery Services Acquired by Federal Express	Dedicated in-house operation established fleet of vehicles
1990		Joint venture with TNT Transport makes White Arrow the UK's biggest parcel delivery system
1992	Home Express formed following re-acquisition of former HDS from Federal Express Transfer of northern two-man operation to Beehive mill, Bolton	
1993		Two-Man operation Edmonton opened
1994		Two-Man operation Blackpole, Worcester opened
1996	Business Express launched with new next day service offer	England and Wales completely covered with a Two-Man operation
1999	Shaw sort centre opened in March 1999 Capacity to sort 60 million items/yr	
1999	Track and Trace introduced 1500 hand held terminals	
2000	Track and Trace introduced 2500 hand held terminals to its depot network	Reality Group Limited launched with a major drive in using a self-employed courier network
2003	Separation of Littlewoods Ltd. Creating distinct and separate businesses including Business Express Network Limited	Business sold by GUS plc to March UK Ltd.
2004		Littlewoods Shop Direct Group launched
2005		Home Delivery Network Limited launched 120 million item annual sort capacity 3500 dedicated delivery drivers 1200 trailers 58 parcel depots 24 hour on line parcel tracking 5 transport hubs 3 specialised operation hubs for heavy and large items 1 Home Delivery Network
2006		Dedicated network expanded into Northern Ireland with the formation of HDN (NI) as a subsidiary of HDNL
2007		Reshaping of the network to meet changing customer base, resulting from the increase in internet shopping A changing network to meet consumer demand ... 120 million item annual sort capacity 3500 dedicated delivery drivers 1200 trailers 62 parcel depots 24 / 7 'real time' track and trace 5 transport hubs 4 specialised operation hubs for heavy and large items 1 Home Delivery Network
2008		Littlewoods Shop Direct Group changes its name to Shop Direct Group
2008 (May)		Home Delivery Network Limited becomes independent of Shop Direct Group