

# Summary of responses to the consultation on fee proposals for Driving Licences and Vehicle Registration

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**DVLA issued a consultation document ‘DVLA Consultation on fee proposals – Driving Licences and Vehicle Registration’ on 27 May 2003. The paper proposed the introduction of a revised and simplified fee structure underpinned by an amalgamation of driver licensing and vehicle registration fees in a single fund from which associated costs would be met. This document was also posted on this site. The consultation ended on 18 August 2003. A total of 520 consultation papers were issued and there were over 800 ‘hits’ recorded against the consultation paper on this site. 73 responses were received.**

## General Principles

Four respondents, the Road Haulage Association, the Institute of Advanced Motorists, Down District Council and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland supported the general principles of the paper.

One respondent, the International Powered Access Federation, was averse to the underlying principles and proposed that means other than increasing fees should be considered to recover rising costs.

## Pooling of Driver and Vehicle Costs

Eight respondents commented on the proposal to combine the costs of driver licensing and vehicle registration operations in a single pool and setting fees to recover these costs.

Six respondents: the Road Safety Council NI; the Confederation of Passenger Transport; the Freight Transport Association; the Caravan Club; Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) and Age Concern England supported the proposal, whilst two: the Agricultural Engineers Association and the

National Council on Inland Transport specifically opposed it. In response, Ministers have agreed that the proposal to combine the costs of driver licensing and vehicle registration operations in a single pool, and set fees to recover those costs, should be adopted as supporting moves towards systems integration and commonality of systems.

## Fee Options

The consultation paper offered four alternatives to recoup the costs associated with the combined costs of the driver licensing and vehicle registration operations.

Each of the four options contained a variety of fee levels designed to deliver up the same level of total fee income sufficient to meet anticipated costs.

### Option 1

This option received the highest level of response from respondents with thirty-one (five of which also supported option 2) supporting the proposed fee levels.

Age Concern Cymru, Antrim Borough Council, Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, British Association of Removers, the Caravan Club, Civil Service Pensioners Alliance, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, Derbyshire Constabulary, Department for Transport, Disability Action, Down District Council, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland (on behalf of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland), Environmental Transport Association, Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, Freight Transport Association, Guild of Experienced Motorists, Historic Commercial Vehicle Society, Ministry of Defence (DTMA), Motability, Motability Operations, National Federation of Post Office and BT Pensioners, National Pensioners Convention, Newport Transport Ltd, Police Federation of England and Wales, the Road Haulage Association, the Road Safety Council (NI) and the Vintage Motor Cycle Club all

supported the option. In addition, four private individuals supported the proposals contained in the option.

### **Option 2**

One respondent, Age Concern England, supported this proposal.

### **Option 3**

One respondent, Ministry of Defence (DSTPB) supported this proposal.

### **Option 4**

One respondent, the Agricultural Engineers Association, supported this proposal.

## **Additional comments**

Thirty-nine respondents commented on the proposals without specifically favouring any of the options. The AA Motoring Trust felt that there should be no increase in fee levels and together with the Freight Transport Association and the International Powered Access Federation, thought that DVLA should improve its service delivery and achieve greater efficiencies.

The British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association and the Society of Motor Manufacturers opposed any rise in the first registration fee whilst the Retail Motor Manufacturing Industry felt that any increase should be linked to inflation. However, the Road Haulage Association commented on the size of the fee increase but considered that, set against the cost of the whole vehicle, it was not unreasonable.

The Environmental Transport Association supported a larger increase in the first registration fee to fund a reduction in the driving licence fees. The National Council for Inland Transport felt the fee for first registration should be set at a sum above those in the four options.

The policy of abolishing the fee for drivers aged over 70 received overwhelming support with fifteen responses from private individuals, one of which included a 147 signature petition of support, welcoming the proposal. In response, Ministers have decided that the fee structure set out in Option 1 should be introduced as soon as suitable legislative opportunities arise.

The option provides benefits for the older driver population by removing the fee for the three yearly renewals of driving licences and also removing the fees associated with lorry/bus driving licences. Replacement driving licences and registration documents that have been sent to the Agency to notify changes will remain free of charge which helps to maintain the accuracy of the databases.

A fee of £19 will apply for the reissue of driving licences and registration documents that have been lost, stolen or destroyed. The reintroduction of a fee for issuing a duplicate vehicle registration document underlines that this, as well as the driving licence, is an important document and should be safeguarded. The increase in the fee for the initial registration of a vehicle will help to fund the various cost pressures facing DVLA.

**Full details of the new fees are at Appendix 1.**

It is proposed that the resulting new fees should be introduced as follows:

- The initial vehicle registration fee from 1 January 2004;
- The reintroduction of the fee for lost, stolen, or destroyed vehicle registration documents from 16 February 2004; and
- The changes to the driving licence fees from 1 March 2004.

# Appendix 1

## New Fee Levels

### Driver Fee Structure

| Transaction   | Present Fee | New Fee | Implementation Date |
|---|-------------|---------|---------------------|
| <b>Driving licence:</b>                                   |             |         |                     |
| First Provisional   | £29         | £38     | 1 March 2004        |
| Upgrading after test pass                                 | £12         | Free    | 1 March 2004        |
| Renewals at age 70 plus                                   | £6          | Free    | 1 March 2004        |
| Replacement Driving Licence (change of details)           | Free        | Free    | No Change           |
| Duplicate Driving Licence (replace lost/stolen/destroyed) | £17         | £19     | 1 March 2004        |
| Exchange Licence  |             |         |                     |
| - add entitlements  | £18         | Free    | 1 March 2004        |
| - remove spent endorsements etc                           | £18         | £19     |                     |
| <b>Vocational Driving Licence:</b>                        |             |         |                     |
| First Provisional Entitlement                             | £29         | Free    | 1 March 2004        |
| Upgrading after test pass                                 | £12         | Free    | 1 March 2004        |
| Renewal   | £29         | Free    | 1 March 2004        |
| Exchanges   | £18         | Free    | 1 March 2004        |
| <b>Reissued Driving Licences:</b>                         |             |         |                     |
| Reissue after revocation                                  | £29         | £38     | 1 March 2004        |
| Reissue for HROs  | £50         | £75     | 1 March 2004        |
| Reissue after disqualification                            | £35         | £50     | 1 March 2004        |

## New Fee Levels

### Vehicle Fee Structure

| Transaction   | Present fee | New fee | Implementation Date |
|---|-------------|---------|---------------------|
| Initial Vehicle Registration                                    | £25         | £38     | 1 January 2004      |
| Replacement Registration Document (change of details)           | Free        | Free    | No Change           |
| Duplicate Registration Document (replace lost/stolen/destroyed) | Free        | £19     | 16 February 2004    |