

Consultation on changes to bus registration in Scotland



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

North Ayrshire Council

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3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual / Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Transport Scotland web site)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick **ONE** of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Transport Scotland web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Transport Scotland to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Question 1: do you agree with the proposal to extend the pre-registration notice period from 14 days to 28 days ?

Yes No

Changing to 28 days will allow for a period of dialogue between the bus operators and relevant authority to plan and make appropriate changes to services in order to maintain network coverage.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal to replace the duty to inform the relevant authorities before making an application for registration with a duty to consult with the relevant authorities?

Yes No

A duty to consult would give the relevant authority the opportunity to discuss the needs of a particular route. It may therefore be possible to adjust the route to benefit bus users prior to submission of a registration.

Question 3: Do you agree that relevant authorities should be encouraged through guidance to draw potential concerns about new registrations to the attention of the traffic Commissioner for Scotland and/or Transport Scotland?

Yes No

The Traffic Commissioner is not always aware of local issues in relation to bus services. Notification of local concerns will help to inform the development of policy and will allow the Traffic Commissioner to be better notified of issues arising with bus operators.

Question 4a: Do you agree with the proposal to reduce the period of registration from 56 days to 42 days? What difficulties (if any) do you consider such a change might present and how might these be addressed?

Yes No

We would agree that the reduction in registration period to 42 days would maintain the overall registration period of 70 days, which would be fair to the operators. Any issues in relation to the provision of passenger information could be addressed by collaborative working with the bus operator to provide this information.

Question 4b: An alternative option would be to reduce the registration period from 56 days to 42 days only where Electronic Bus Service Registration (EBSR) is used. Do you agree with this?

Yes No

We agree that reducing the registration period from 56 days to 42 days for EBSR would encourage the use of EBSR, which would improve the efficiency of the registration process.

Question 5: Do you agree that we should require operators to detail within registered hourly frequency bands any services that are registered as frequent services?

Yes No

Providing a more accurate registration of frequent services will minimise the opportunity for operators to squeeze out rival services by adjusting their timetable as they will be required to operate within the strict timetable that they register.

Question 6: Do you agree that if the proposed changes set out above are adopted, they will improve the bus registration process in Scotland ?

Yes No

At present there is very little dialogue between bus operators and local transport authorities on bus service provision. The proposed changes will lead to better communications and potentially better bus services for the travelling public.

Question 7: It is possible that much of what is proposed above could be achieved through Guidance and/or a Code of Conduct to facilitate engagement between operators and relevant authorities rather than changes to the legislation. Do you have any views on this?

Yes No

Guidance on its own can often be ignored. Minimal changes to the legislation backed up by guidance should encourage better compliance and improved dialogue between bus operators and local transport authorities leading to improved bus provision and service.