

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

The Moray 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

The Moray Council supports this proposal. Formalising the extension of the window of discussion between operators and local authorities from 14 to 28 days is a beneficial measure which will allow more time for measured dialogue between both parties.

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

The Moray Council supports this proposal. Placing a requirement on bus operators to consult rather than merely notify on future commercial network changes will offer more opportunity for a collaborative approach in developing bus services which meet customer needs.

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 Moray Council supports this proposal. The proposal offers the opportunity for a formal communications channel to be opened.

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

The Moray Council supports this proposal and sees no difficulties presented for the authority.

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

The Moray Council does not support this element of the consultation. There is the potential for chaotic service implementation dates in some parts of the country if 42 days were to be accepted for electronic registrations (EBSR) and 56 days for manually prepared documentation.

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

The Moray Council supports this proposal. Currently there are no services operated in Moray to which this applies but the authority supports the proposal seeking to clarify this.

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

By offering an opportunity for a more collaborative approach between authorities and bus companies, the bus service registration process and the travelling public must surely benefit.

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

The authority currently has a very good relationship with the commercial bus operators which serve Moray and would be able to work within the framework of a clearly delineated Code of Conduct.