

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

Angus Council

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr Please tick as appropriate

Surname

Stiff

Forename

Richard

2. Postal Address

| | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Angus Council | | |
| Chief Executive | | |
| Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park | | |
| Forfar | | |
| Postcode DD8 1AX | Phone 08452 77778 | Email PLNTransport@angus.gov.uk |

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Individual</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | / | <p>Group/Organisation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p><i>Please tick as appropriate</i></p> | | |

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| <p>(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)?</p> <p><i>Please tick as appropriate</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis:</p> <p><i>Please tick ONE of the following boxes</i></p> <p>Yes, make my response, name and address all available <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>or</i></p> <p>Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>or</i></p> <p>Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>(c) The name and address of your organisation <i>will be</i> made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Transport Scotland web site).</p> <p>Are you content for your <i>response</i> to be made available?</p> <p><i>Please tick as appropriate</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> |
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| <p>(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?</p> <p><i>Please tick as appropriate</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> |
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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 extension of the pre-registration period would be welcomed. While we do already generally get informal notice in advance of 14 days from operators of service changes, formalisation of this would be beneficial.

Where services are to be withdrawn or significantly revised the extended period gives sufficient time for the Council to undertake full on-bus surveys to establish service usage, gather data from the bus companies themselves and to identify what options are available in order to continue any necessary service provision.

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 collaborative approach between operators and local authorities is welcomed. Where this has in the past taken place informally, experience has shown that the outcomes are beneficial to the travelling public. Angus Council continues to work with operators in the pre-registration period to establish the impact of any service changes / withdrawals and to see if any issues can be addressed.

Currently pre-registration notifications are treated confidentially (unless agreed otherwise with operators) which means that Council's cannot consult with elected members and other interested parties in respect of any proposed service changes. If there is a duty placed on operators to consult with relevant authorities then the confidentiality requirement would be removed – this change is welcomed.

If operators are required to consult with local authorities, it is important that it is clear to all that authorities are not being asked to agree to the changes. Any service changes implemented are the decision of the bus operator and it would be unlikely for any authority to agree to the withdrawal of a bus route. The purpose of the consultation must therefore be clear and guidance in this regard would be welcomed.

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

Guidance would need to be issued detailing the types of concerns which would be appropriate to bring to the attention of the Traffic Commissioner.

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 reduction in the registration period is likely to cause difficulties in preparing the necessary publicity to inform the public of the service changes within the given timescale. For example, where there is a significant network change it would be difficult to get the required information to Traveline (our target is 38 days prior to the service change). This data can only be provided from the final registrations so it would be difficult to meet this target.

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

Where EBSR is used then there are some benefits to the local authority when preparing publicity but this is still time consuming especially where there are split registrations and circular services. Our understanding is that EBSR is to be reviewed and it is felt that any reduction in timescales should be considered following that review.

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

Frequent services are not currently an issue in this area. However, the proposed change would assist with providing more detailed information for real time information systems.

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

Changes which Angus Council has answered yes to, it is considered will benefit the service provision and local bus service information which we make available to passengers.

The requirement for bus companies to consult about service changes is welcomed, however the Government must ensure that the public are not given the impression that the

decision as to whether services are being varied or withdrawn is being passed to the local authority.

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

It is difficult to see how the intended outcomes can be achieved on other than a legislated basis. Legislation is needed to ensure that all operators follow the prescribed registration procedures.