

This response is by the Chairs of the RTPs. Please refer to individual RTP responses for further detail.

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

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

Comments

The RTPs support these proposals.

As they are interrelated, we are making a joint response to Q1 and Q2.

Overall, these proposals will ensure that a more co-ordinated, effective, and meaningful partnership-orientated approach to public and private sector bus network planning and development is in place, which crucially will be to the significant benefit of passengers and communities.

The terms of the 'consultation' would require specification.

The term 'relevant authorities' should be replaced by 'Public Transport Authorities' which in some cases could mean the local authority and in others the Regional Transport Partnership.

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

Comments

The majority of RTPs support this proposal, but please see individual RTP responses for more detail on this.

This will allow the appropriate transport authorities (local authorities and/or RTPs) to inform the Commissioner of wider ranging issues. However, it is considered that this should apply to all, not only new, registrations.

The RTPs support the view expressed in the response by Sustran regarding bus service numbers.

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

Comments

Please see individual RTP responses.

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

Comments

The RTPs do not support this proposal.

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

Comments

The RTPs support this proposal.

This proposal would enhance the opportunity for market entrance for operators, but we would highlight that there should be an element of built-in flexibility to this proposal to allow operators to react to demand. Furthermore, we would highlight that this proposal, if further developed, could provide the opportunity for improved gap management of services.

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

Comments

Yes, for those proposals we support.

The proposals will improve the registration process and work towards a more effective partnership between the private and public sectors in network development and planning, which ultimately will benefit the passenger and the public purse.

We note that some proposals require further clarification and guidance. Please refer to individual RTP responses for more detail.

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?

We have views on this.

Comments

Please see individual RTP responses.