

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

Rural East Lothian Bus Users Group (RELBUS)

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr *Please tick as appropriate*

Surname

Forename

2. Postal Address

Postcode	Phone	Email

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

<p>Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Group/Organisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please tick as appropriate</i></p> <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)? <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 <i>Please tick ONE of the following boxes</i> Yes, make my response, name and address all available <input type="checkbox"/> <i>or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address <input type="checkbox"/> <i>or</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address <input type="checkbox"/></p> <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? <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

This will give local authorities more time to consider the implications of bus service alterations

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

This is in line with current thinking on consultation with the public regarding bus service alterations

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

Local authorities are often aware of local issues whereas in some cases large national bus companies, with often remote management, are unaware of local issues and can tend to concentrate principally on economic matters which may not be in the interests of the area.

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

There should be little difficulty in this respect – and should enable important enhancements to be implemented quicker than is currently the case

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 have no objection to this, but do not consider it to be mutually exclusive to 4a.

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

This makes sense and results in all being considered on the same parameters.

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

Should provide a more efficient procedure.

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

A code of conduct might work well in most cases, but where there are competitive pressures, circumventing a non-compulsory code of conduct, or if operators of debateable repute are involved, it is possible the code of conduct could be breached. Therefore we favour legislation.