

BPA DVLA Focus Group – Swansea

11th March 2015

Thank you to all User Group Members who sent in their individual enquiries. These were all passed to the BPA for inclusion in the Agenda for the meeting on 11th March. Unfortunately some of the enquiries were repeats, some of which have been previously clarified. Therefore, I requested at the focus group meeting that relevant information be put on the BPA web pages (i.e. FAQs) as confirmed by the DVLA for all members to access. This has been agreed.

I have also requested that responses to our enquiries be included in the official minutes. Once these are received I will forward them to Robin for circulation.

VES (Vehicle Enquiry System) should you need to know if a specific vehicle is exempt from tax, as a general rule if you look it up on the VES it will have a '0' value for renewal. The DVLA has found that it has received far more hits on the VES site than was expected, over 600,000 per day. This is too many to support the site and therefore access to the site is being looked into.

WEE (Web enabled Enquiries). It was asked if this system could be used as a safeguarding method immediately prior to tow away after a vehicle has more than the required amount of unpaid PCNs, this was to ensure that the vehicle had not changed hands from the issuing of the first PCN to the date of tow away. The answer was a categorical NO. There are only 398 live services for WEE.

DVLA stated the WEE system was outdated and not suitable for current technology. Portsmouth highlighted that as the system ran on a modem and telephone line, and their IT have informed them it is not possible to replace the access to the DVLA should their WEE access break down then there was a serious business risk to consider. DVLA agreed with their concerns and said hopefully at some time in the future the plan is to host the WEE system on a new platform possibly together with the KADOE service we currently use.

There are companies who offer the service of DVLA instant enquiries for a small fee .e. Experian, HPI etc, if councils would like to use them for this purpose.

Use of PO Boxes to register a vehicle – Apparently the DVLA only allows this for commercial companies, however, Walsall could supply an example where an individual recently registered his own customised vehicle to a PO Box address. There is currently police involvement and the DVLA have suggested this is a case where data sharing would be a benefit

Abuse of Motor Trade and Cherished Number Plates. Any abuse of cherished number plates should be reported together with the photographic evidence to the DVLA. They will confirm the contact details in their meeting notes.

The matter of the VRM being personal data was again raised by the DVLA. It was proposed that at the next focus group meeting a representative from the ICO be invited to attend. This was agreed.

Camera Technology off street

Clarification on the revoking of the TMA 2004 and enforcing under contract law, The Secretary of State has the powers to authorise a CEA but he or the LA does not have the power to revoke it.

1984 act gives you the powers to regulate and deregulated but the TMA does not.

Following the letter that was sent out by the DVLA asking which authorities were managing land under contract law, 6 LAs responded positively. There are 20 LAs who are not CPE, where by the police enforce the highway.

LAs can manage private land under contract law but they cannot use the powers for keeper liability. They cannot clamp and tow away. The BPA clarified that councils do have the powers to use contract law but not keeper liability.

The Welsh Government is trialling CCTV in car parks in Rhyl, the effectiveness of which is being monitored. Cardiff is enforcing moving traffic contraventions.

DVLA questions

Liz Simmonds from the DVLA raised the matter of Incorrect Data i.e. if we send in a VQ4 and later realise the information in the enquiry was incorrect, does this happen, and if so what did we do with the information we have received in the VQ5. Liz stated that according to our contracts we should be deleting the information immediately and informing the DVLA of the error in the enquiry. She is going away to consider the possible volumes of additional work if this should be the case.

Reminder to all LAs, can they ensure no DVLA enquiry is made on a PCN less than 28 days from issue. i.e. if someone needs to be identified, you cannot use a VQ4 before the 28 day duration. Has ended