



Driver & Vehicle
Licensing
Agency

Public consultation

Exchange of driving licences issued in
the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan,
Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates



Interactive document
November 2020



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Gold

Public consultation

Exchange of driving licences issued in the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)
Longview Road
Morrison
Swansea
SA6 7JL



© Crown copyright 2020

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated.

To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Public consultation

Exchange of driving licences issued in the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates

Introduction

This consultation seeks your views on allowing licences to drive certain categories of small vehicle issued in the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to be exchanged for a British equivalent, if the driver becomes resident in Great Britain (GB).

This change will apply in England, Scotland and Wales only. Driver licensing is a devolved matter in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Assembly will consider amendments to the law in Northern Ireland.

Background

People resident in GB with valid licences from outside the European Economic Area may drive small vehicles (such as motorcycles, cars, and vehicles up to 3500kgs or with up to 8 passenger seats) for up to a year. After this time, to continue driving they must pass a British driving test unless they hold a licence issued in a country or territory designated by law for the purpose of licence exchange.

Designation is dependent on the testing and licensing standards in the country or territory being assessed as equivalent to those applied in GB. Once a country or territory has been designated, specified licences may be exchanged for British equivalents subject to the holders meeting the normal British requirements on health and minimum ages.

The countries that are presently designated are: Andorra, Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Hong Kong, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland and Zimbabwe.

The exchange of a licence from a designated country or territory for a GB equivalent is also subject to the following conditions:

- i) Applicants must show that they did not obtain the licence by way of a previous exchange for one issued in a third country or territory whose licensing and testing standards do not meet those applied in Great Britain.
- ii) Licences issued as a result of a test passed in a vehicle with automatic transmission will be exchanged for a British licence with entitlement to drive automatic vehicles only.
- iii) Licences must be valid at the time of application.

Public consultation

Exchange of driving licences issued in the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates

The proposal

Current licensing and testing standards in the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan, Ukraine and the UAE have been assessed by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency. In light of this assessment, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is proposing to allow the licences listed below to be exchanged for a GB equivalent on the basis that there will be no negative impact on road safety.

- Car licences issued in the Republic of North Macedonia.
- Car licences issued in Taiwan.
- Car licences issued in Ukraine.
- Car and light motorcycle (not exceeding 125cc) licences issued in the UAE.

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, changes will be included in an order made under sections 108(2) to (2B) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Designation will be on the understanding that each country or territory puts in place reciprocal arrangements for GB licence holders, resident in their country or territory.

Benefits of proposed change

No savings or costs for businesses or charities have been identified. Any benefits will apply only to a small number of private individuals, so the change falls outside the better regulation framework. In the circumstances there is no requirement for an impact assessment.

The main benefit will be to allow individuals who have already met the driving standards required in GB to obtain a full British licence. They will no longer have to first apply for a provisional GB licence. This will allow them to maintain the benefits of independent driving without the added time and expense involved in subsequently sitting another driving test.

Provisional driving licences issued

	FY 2017/2018	FY 2018/2019
Republic of North Macedonia	322	379
Taiwan	387	387
Ukraine	1683	2109
UAE	855	854
Total	3,247	3,729

Similar benefits should accrue to GB drivers, resident in these countries and territories as a result of reciprocal arrangements.

Public consultation

Exchange of driving licences issued in the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates

Consultation question

Are you aware of any reason why the DVLA should not take forward the proposal to exchange:

- 1) Car driving licences issued in the Republic of North Macedonia?
- 2) Car driving licences issued in Taiwan?
- 3) Car driving licences issued in Ukraine?
- 4) Car and light motorcycle driving licences issued in the UAE?

Duration

The consultation will run between 26 November 2020 and 23 December 2020. Any responses received after this date will be taken into consideration only in exceptional circumstances.

How to respond

You can respond by email to:
driverspolicy@dvla.gov.uk

If you cannot respond by email, you can write to us at: Driver Licensing Policy, Strategy, Policy & Communications Directorate, C2E, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Swansea, SA6 7JL. Please allow time for your response to reach us before the end of the consultation period.

When responding, it would be helpful if you could state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please make clear who the organisation represents and where applicable, how the views of members were collected.

Please get in touch by email if you would like a copy of the consultation in an alternative format, or if you have any questions.

Freedom of Information

Respondents are asked to note that we may publish some or all of the comments received in response to this consultation. Also, if a third party asks to see such comments, we may be obliged by law (for example, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004) to disclose them. If there are particular reasons why you would not wish your comments to be published or disclosed, please let us know. Although your wishes in this respect may not override any statutory requirement to disclose, they will be taken into account so far as possible. If you reply by email, the above overrides any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system.

Public consultation

Exchange of driving licences issued in the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates

After the consultation

All responses will be considered as part of the consultation process. We will explore the possibility of incorporating valid suggestions and comments. The summary of responses will be published within three months and before or alongside any further action, (e.g. laying legislation before Parliament). It will be available online at: www.dvla.gov.uk/consultations We will notify those who responded to the consultation when this happens.

The Consultation Principles

Because of the limited impact and scope of this proposal we are carrying out a shortened consultation targeted towards key industry groups. We believe that this consultation complies with the Consultation Principles, which are published by the Cabinet Office online at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance

A summary is shown below:

- Consultations should be clear and concise.
- Consultations should have a purpose.
- Consultations should be informative.
- Consultations are only part of a process of engagement.
- Consultations should last for a proportionate amount of time.
- Consultations should be targeted.
- Consultations should take account of the groups being consulted.

- Consultations should be agreed before publication.
- Consultations should facilitate scrutiny.
- Government responses to consultations should be published in a timely fashion.
- Consultation exercises should not generally be launched during local or national election periods.

If you consider that this consultation does not comply with the consultation principles or you have comments about the consultation process, please contact:

Karen Hughes
Karen.hughes1@dvla.gov.uk
Consultation Co-ordinator
Strategy, Policy & Communications Directorate
DVLA
Swansea
SA6 7JL

Public consultation

Exchange of driving licences Issued in
the Republic of North Macedonia, Taiwan,
Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates

DVLA
Longview Road
Morrison
Swansea
SA6 7JL

[gov.uk/dvla](https://www.gov.uk/dvla)