

## Abolition of the Paper Counterpart

### Project newsletter – Issue 2

#### Introduction

In the [first issue](#) of this newsletter we provided the background to the DVLA's commitment to abolish the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence by 2015.

This issue contains updates on the new services in development, and also shares what we currently know about the charging model and the requirement for consent to check another person's driving record.

#### Update on new services

##### View Driving Record (VDR)

Work has been continuing on the View Driving Record service in preparation for a formal launch later this summer. This has included making the service more robust and introducing a bi-lingual version. Refinements have also been made following user feedback around the privacy statement and entitlements.

We have also developed a link to the new Government Identity Assurance (IDA) service and have started a private [beta](#) where a selected number of internal users have been invited to test the service before accessing VDR. Feedback from the private beta will be used to improve the service before it moves to public beta later this year. This will eventually be the means through which all users will access VDR.

##### Share My Driving Record (SMDR)

Share My Driving Record is now in the final weeks of the [Alpha](#) phase, and we have continued to use insight and feedback gained from visits to potential users to iteratively develop the prototype before we start to develop the web based service in earnest.

We aim to have a working prototype by early August and have several rounds of insight and feedback sessions scheduled over the coming months with employers, car hire companies, driving instructors and intermediaries.

## **SMDR access controls**

We are aware that many parties are interested in how Share My Driving Record will be accessed. Access controls are under active consideration, we are trialling a number of options and will continue to gather user feedback as we finalise options. We hope to provide more information in the next update.

## **SMDR charging model**

The new Share My Driver Record service will initially be free. However, this position will be kept under continuous review and is subject to change based on potential costs and other factors.

Not charging users for SMDR is based on the service providing the basic information available on the counterpart, which the driver can currently present free of charge to those who have right to view it. If enquirers require further detail on the record, they can choose to use any of the existing services, whose charges remain unchanged.

## **Consent from the licence holder to access their data**

Currently to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998, driver data can only be disclosed for driver entitlement checking purposes with the explicit consent of the data subject. Consent is valid for up to 3 years and, in most cases, is recorded on a paper mandate for audit purposes.

Once the paper counterpart has been abolished the DVLA may no longer need to rely on the driver's explicit consent to legitimately process their sensitive personal data for driver entitlement checking purposes. If the DVLA relies on an alternative schedule condition within the DPA, recipients of the data may still need to be able to demonstrate that the data was accessed for a legitimate purpose, and will still need to inform drivers that they intend to request their personal data from the DVLA. Detailed audit requirements will depend on the technical solution adopted.

We expect to be in a position to confirm what abolition of the counterpart means to obtaining consent from the data subject in the next update.

## **Further information**

For more information please visit our [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) information page and the DVLA [Digital Services Blog](#).

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Why is the counterpart being abolished?**

The decision to abolish the counterpart arose from the government's [Red Tape Challenge consultation on road transportation](#). It also aligns to the DVLA [Strategic Plan](#).

**2. How will drivers be able to see the information currently shown on the paper counterpart?**

The View Driving Record service offers free real time access for drivers to view their own personal details, endorsements and entitlements. Drivers may also contact us by phone, letter and fax.

**3. How will the Police be able to see the information currently shown on the paper counterpart?**

The Police can access this information electronically at the roadside via the Police National Computer. They also have access to our Driver Validation Service at Force headquarters or dedicated stations.

**4. How will other organisations such as car hire companies or employers see the information currently shown on the counterpart?**

We are currently developing a new service called Share My Driving Record that will provide the minimum information required from the driver record to those who have a right to see it. Existing channels and intermediaries will continue to be available.

**5. Will paper driving licences issued before photocard were introduced in 1998 still be valid?**

Yes, paper licences issued before the photocard was introduced will remain valid and are not affected by these changes. Drivers holding a pre-1998 paper licence will be able to use the new View Driving Record service, and their record will be available on Share My Driving Record.

**6. What will happen to existing counterpart documents already in circulation?**

From January 2015 drivers in possession of a paper counterpart may destroy it if they do not feel they will need it for other purposes.



**7. How will the driver be able to notify the DVLA of a change of address?**

The DVLA will still accept the driving licence counterpart for change of address purposes only. Alternatively, drivers can [apply on-line](#) or complete an Application for a Driving Licence (D1) or Application for a lorry, bus or minibus driving licence (D2) form.

**8. How will the courts record Endorsements?**

All endorsement notifications will be captured electronically and will continue to be recorded on the driver record held by DVLA.

**Feedback:** Please provide feedback on the content or presentation of this newsletter to [abolitionofcounterpart@dvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:abolitionofcounterpart@dvla.gsi.gov.uk)



# ***DRIVING LICENCE CHANGES***

*Information for our stakeholders and commercial customers  
on the development of DVLA's new driver enquiry services*