



Driver & Vehicle  
Licensing  
Agency

## Consultation report

Exchange of large vehicles  
(buses and lorries) driving  
licences issued in Switzerland



Interactive document  
May 2018



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IN PEOPLE

Silver  
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Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)  
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# Table of contents

Consultation question ..... 4

**01 >**

Executive summary ..... 5

**02 >**

Introduction ..... 5

**03 >**

Background ..... 5

**04 >**

Responses to the  
consultation exercise..... 6

**05 >**

Disclosure of information ..... 6

**06 >**

Next steps..... 6

**07 >**

The responses ..... 6

## Consultation question:

**Do you agree that holders of a licence issued in Switzerland with entitlement to drive large buses and lorries can exchange their licences for the British equivalent if they have become resident in Great Britain? If you disagree, please explain why.**

## Consultation report

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### 1. Executive summary

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) asked for views on a proposal to allow drivers who hold a licence to drive large vehicles (buses and lorries) which was originally issued in Switzerland to exchange that licence for the British equivalent if the driver became resident in Great Britain.

The consultation document was published on GOV.UK and was available for both the public and industry to express their opinions on the proposed changes.

There were seven responses received and the overall reaction was positive.

### 2. Introduction

The consultation was launched on 30 January 2015 and ended on 27 February 2015. The consultation asked for the views of those with an interest in the proposed change.

### 3. Background

The DVLA has been considering allowing the holders of licences to drive large buses and lorries that were issued in Switzerland to exchange those licences for the British equivalent if the holders of such licences become resident in Great Britain. This would support the existing arrangements that provide for Swiss driving licence holders to exchange their licences to drive cars and motorcycles.

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency has assessed the current licensing and testing standards for driving buses and lorries in Switzerland and approved the standards for large buses and lorries.

The proposal affects only holders of licences to drive large buses and lorries issued in Switzerland who become resident in Great Britain. It does not affect the arrangements in place for those driving buses and lorries as visitors.

The changes will be included in an order made in exercise of powers granted by sections 108 (2) to (2B) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

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### 4. Responses to the consultation exercise

There were seven responses to the consultation. All agreed to the proposal. The DVLA would like to thank everyone who responded.

### 5. Disclosure of information

None of the respondents to the consultation asked for their response to be treated as confidential. The responses are available online at [www.dft.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations)

### 6. Next steps

The DVLA will now amend the law to allow for drivers who hold a licence to drive large vehicles (buses and lorries), which was issued originally in Switzerland to exchange it for a British equivalent, if the driver becomes resident in Great Britain. The new regulations will come into force on March 2016.

### 7. The responses

**Q1** – Do you agree that holders of a licence issued in Switzerland with entitlement to drive large buses and lorries can exchange their licences for the British equivalent if they have become resident in Great Britain? If you disagree, please explain why.

All seven responses received were positive.

**A cross-section of the comments received is shown below:**

**Police Scotland (Road Policing)** – “has no objection to holders of Swiss driving licences that have large bus and lorry entitlement from exchanging their licence for the UK equivalent upon becoming resident in Great Britain. This is primarily based on DVSA approval of the standards required to possess a Swiss large lorry or bus licence.”

**Freight Transport Association (FTA)** – “Road safety standards in the UK are amongst the best in Europe, this is due to a number of factors including the initial training and testing process, awareness campaigns and enforcement of the regulations. It is therefore that the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) are satisfied that drivers from Switzerland who become resident in Great Britain meet our own rigorous requirements. The association welcomes confirmation that these assurances have been provided and that the current licensing and testing standards for driving buses and lorries in Switzerland have been assessed and approved for category C&D licence holders.”

**An individual requesting anonymity but agreed that comments could be published** – “I agree in principle that the holders of a Swiss driving licence with entitlement to drive buses and lorries can exchange their licences for the British equivalent if they have become resident in Great Britain.”

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