



Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Casework & Specialist Advice

D16

DVLA

Longview Road

Swansea

SA6 7JL

Mark-William:Baker

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.XXX

Telephone 01792 788582

Fax 01792 78 4546

Textphone

Email

Website www.direct.gov.uk/motoring

Your Ref

Our Ref

Date: 6 May 2009

Dear Mr William:Baker

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. As your request for information falls within the Agency's day to day business, your request is subsequently being treated as 'Business as Usual'.

The register maintained by the Agency is based on vehicles and the registered keepers who are responsible for the use and licensing of vehicles on the roads. It is not a register of legal title to vehicles. The register held at DVLA is essentially maintained to assist in revenue collection, road safety and law enforcement generally. It is clearly essential for all these purposes that the register shows the people in possession of vehicles and responsible for its day to day use on the road. For this reason the law requires keepers to notify the Agency as they acquire and dispose of vehicles and Vehicle Registration Certificates (V5C) are issued to them to help this process.

You have stated that you are the owner of your vehicle. However, this is not the case for all our customers, and to this end, V5C's are not documents of legal title or proof of ownership. There is a prominent note on the certificate to makes it clear that the registered keeper is not necessarily a vehicles legal owner and the fact a certificate is issued does not affect the legal ownership of a vehicle.

It is a legal requirement to license a vehicle that is to be used or kept on a public road. However, I should explain that it is also a legal requirement to display a tax disc. The non-display of a current tax disc is an offence.

All vehicle registration and licensing is governed by the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (as amended) (VERA) and the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002. The offence of using or keeping an unlicensed vehicle on a public road is contained in Section 29 of the Act. The offence of using or keeping a vehicle on a public road while not displaying a valid tax disc is contained in Section 33 of the Act.



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Yours sincerely

Policy and External Communications Directorate
Casework & Specialist Advice