

Dear Mr William:Baker

I am in receipt of your e-mails of 22nd 23rd and 24th May and note the contents. This response is to inform you that if you use or keep of a motor vehicle in the United Kingdom you are obliged to comply with United Kingdom statute law.

In relation to your e-mail on the policy on unregistered vehicles. As you are aware, 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.

There is no internal policy for the return of registration plates for vehicles, as there is no requirement for plates to be sent to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

As also explained, in our previous letter of 6 May. V5C's are not documents of legal title or proof of ownership of a vehicle. The register maintained by the Agency is based on vehicles and is a register of the keeper responsible for the use and licensing of vehicles on the road. The register is essentially maintained to assist in revenue collection, road safety and law enforcement generally. It is not a register of legal title to vehicles.

I interpret your letter to imply that you refute any such obligation to register your vehicle. I would therefore advise you to consult a solicitor so that you properly understand the fit between your view of your obligations and the application of statute law requirements to you.

I will not engage in any discussion on this matter but confine myself to saying that any breach by you of your obligations in statute law will be dealt with in exactly the same way as any other person resident in the United Kingdom. Among other obligations you must register and licence with DVLA any vehicle kept by you and comply with the vehicle licencing requirements. Similarly you must seek and keep up to date a driving licence issued by this agency if you intend to drive a motor vehicle on the public road. There are penalties provided for in statute law for breach of these obligations.

I write in such clear and stark terms in order to avoid any doubt. I can provide you with public notices setting out your obligations more fully and would welcome the opportunity to do so if you so require.

Yours sincerely

Policy and External Communications Directorate