

Mr Cooper

Thank you for your e-mail of 12 February about vehicle registration. As your request for information falls within the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) day to day business, your request is subsequently being treated as 'Business as Usual'.

All vehicle registration and licensing is governed by the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (as amended) and the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002.

The Act requires the registered keeper of a vehicle to either license it or, if it is being kept off-road in the UK, make a statutory off-road declaration (SORN).

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 maintain this process and not to claim any legal ownership of the vehicles.

Vehicle Registration Documents (V5C's) are not documents of legal title or proof of ownership. There is a prominent note on the certificate to make it clear that the registered keeper is not necessarily a vehicle's legal owner and the fact a certificate is issued does not affect the legal ownership of a vehicle.

Kind regards

Policy and External Communications Directorate