



Ms Veronica Chapman

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

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Your Ref 7553-fc09e5db

Our Ref

Date: 24 March 2009

Dear Ms Chapman,

Thank you for your further letter of 13 March to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) regarding the laws and regulations concerning the clamping and impounding of untaxed vehicles. Your enquiry has not been dealt with as a Freedom of Information request but as a routine day to day business request.

I must explain that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) does have the legal power to wheel clamp, remove and dispose of untaxed vehicles. This power is granted by legislation set out in the Vehicle Excise Duty (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations 1997, as amended.

The compliance of the regulations with property rights and international law would have been considered at length when they were drafted, and considered further in discussions by the UK Parliament prior to their introduction.

I can confirm that the Agency does not immobilise, remove or destroy vehicles for reasons other than Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) evasion related offences.

Turning to your point about ownership of a vehicle, the register maintained by the Agency is based on vehicles and the registered keepers who are responsible for their licensing and use on the roads. It is not a register of legal title to vehicles and the register is 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 keepers in possession of, and responsible for, vehicles as accurately and quickly as possible.

The points you raise have been noted by the Agency.

Yours sincerely



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An executive agency of the
Department for
Transport

Sent unsigned via e-mail

Tina Higgins
Policy Casework and Advice