

Request to amend vehicle age on first licencing.

May I start this request by painting a picture of a vehicle owner who back in 2018 decided it was time to update their vehicle and after considering what was available chose to buy a high quality, low mileage 2015 car. This decision was made in accordance with the policies then in place which meant that they could use the vehicle until 2030. He was confident of being able to meet these financial commitments, and be able to budget to replace it in the late 2020's.

The situation was changed by the implementation of the new BCP policies which meant that the vehicle would be licenced for the last time during 2023 and have to be replaced about six years earlier than previously budgeted for. This obviously presented him with some problems but he was again confident of overcoming these difficulties. However, like almost everyone else, he was then faced with the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and also of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the cost of living crisis. As a result of these events he is now faced with the real prospect of not being able to finance a replacement vehicle that meets the demands of the current BCP policy and therefore having to leave the trade.

It is because of instances such as this that we request an amendment to the policy with regard to the age of vehicles when first licenced. At an earlier meeting between our Association and the Licensing Team a desire to extend this to 6 years was expressed. Having further reflected upon this we now seek support in one or more of the following ways:-

- An increase to match that recently agreed for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles i.e. a maximum age of four and a half years, with an appropriate maximum mileage restriction.
- A change to the date after which only Euro 6 vehicles will be relicensed to, say, 31 August 2025. (10 years after Euro 6 became the legal standard).
- A benefit of agreeing this last suggestion would be that it could be enhanced to set 10 years as the standard time between the introduction of new emission standards (Hybrid, full EV or Hydrogen) and the need for licenced vehicles to comply. This would mean that all vehicle owners would be aware of the time any vehicle they purchase could remain on the fleet.

- Aligning the dates for Euro 6 and the new BCP livery to 31 Dec 2024, as previously recommended by the Licencing Manager.

Any support you can agree would be much appreciated.