

HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCES

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) on behalf of the traffic commissioners maintain the Operators Licensing Scheme.

The VOSA Examiners investigate and assesses all new operators' vehicle maintenance arrangements to advise Traffic Commissioners on the issue of operators' licences, as well as interim checks to advise the Traffic Commissioners about existing operators' licensing holders vehicle maintenance arrangements. They also investigate environmental complaints into illegal parking and operation of goods vehicles speeding allegations and tachographic investigation.

The Role of the Traffic Commissioner.

A Traffic Commissioner can curtail, withdraw or suspend Operator licences on the basis of prohibitions, convictions or failure to comply with conditions of holding a licence.

Environmental Factors and Conditions.

When considering environmental matters associated with an application for a licence, or variation to an existing licence, the Traffic Commissioner will take into account:

- The nature and use of any other land in the vicinity of the operating centre, and the effect that granting the application would be likely to have on the environment of that land;
- How much harm would be done to the environment of the land in the vicinity, by granting an application which is materially to change the use of an existing (or previously used) operating centre;
- In the case of land not previously used as an operating centre, any planning permission (or planning application) relating to the operating centre or the land in its vicinity;
- The number, type and size of the authorised vehicles which will use the operating centre;
- The parking arrangements for the authorised vehicles which will use the operating centre;
- The nature and times of use of the operating centre;
- The nature and times of use of the equipment at the operating centre; and,
- How many vehicles would be entering and leaving the operating centre, and how often.

Environmental Conditions.

To prevent or minimise adverse effects on the environment, the Traffic Commissioner may attach conditions to a licence covering:

- The number, type and size of authorised vehicles (including trailers) at the operating centre for maintenance or parking;
- Parking arrangements for the authorised vehicles (including trailers) at the operating centre or in its vicinity;
- The times when the operating centre may be used for maintenance or movement of authorised vehicles; and,
- How authorised vehicles enter and leave the operating centre.

Who can object to an application for a new or major variation?

The following have a right to object to the granting of an application for a licence or variation to a licence:

- A Chief Officer of Police
- A local authority (but not a Parish Council)*
- A planning authority
- The British Association of Removers
- The Freight Transport Association
- The General and Municipal Workers Union
- The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
- The Road Haulage Association
- The Transport and General Worker's Union
- The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers
- The United Road Transport Union

An objection must be in writing and must state the grounds on which it is made. These may relate to the qualities of the applicant and any operating centre he proposes to use. Objections to operating centres may be on environmental or non-environmental grounds, or both. At the same time as the objection is sent to the Traffic Commissioner, a copy must be sent to the applicant. The objection must reach the Traffic Commissioner no later than 21 days after the application is published in the Traffic Commissioner's publication Applications and Decisions, copies of which may be obtained from Traffic Area Offices.

** Parish Councils must make representations to the District Council if they wish to object to a licence. The District Council will then evaluate this objection and decide if they agree with the reasons and if so, will formally pursue this with VOSA. It must be noted that the District Council is under no obligation to automatically pass on any objections received.*

For further detailed information about raising objections against an operator please log on to the VOSA website at - www.vosa.gov.uk