

Consultation Outcome – Renaming and Extension of the DVTA Trading Fund

On 2 July 2015, the Department issued a consultation on the Department's proposals to rename and extend the DVTA Trading Fund to include all of DVA, bringing taxi and bus licensing; goods vehicle enforcement activity; and driver licensing into scope.

The consultation issued to a range of individuals, organisations and representative bodies involved with or interested in the work of the Driver and Vehicle Agency in Northern Ireland. It was also made available on the Department's website. The consultation ended on 27 August 2015.

Responses to consultation

The response to the consultation was very low with only two replies received; one from the Women's Forum Northern Ireland and the other from the Freight Transport Association. Both were largely content with the Department's proposals.

The Freight Transport Association felt that freight licensing should be included within the Trading Fund so that revenue from the licensing of freight operators could be used to help with compliance and enforcement of local industry.

Freight Licensing is the responsibility of the Transport Regulation Unit and it remains separate from the enforcement function provided by DVA. During the passage of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 through the Assembly a commitment was given by the Department that this separation between licensing and regulation and the enforcement functions would remain in place.

Income for freight licensing is outside of the Trading Fund. However, the income to cover goods vehicle enforcement is collected as part of the vehicle test fee and will be within the scope of the new Trading Fund.

Way Forward/Next Steps in NI

The Minister has decided that officials should proceed to draft subordinate legislation to rename and extend the functions of the DVTA Trading Fund. This will be subject to Affirmative Resolution and as such will be subject to debate in the Assembly.