

**Extract from the latest Newsletter from the FBHVC**

**Discontinuance of the Tax Disc**

The tax disc is no more.

Several of the issues we raised became clearer as the project progressed, but we remain concerned at how difficult it was to establish exactly what was planned until it actually happened. The DVLA made great play of how many people knew that the tax disc was going, but were strangely silent on how much private sellers and buyers knew about the fact that unexpired tax would no longer be able to be handed on by the buyer to the seller. We still have questions about this change, which we believe to have been put through with inadequate notice to citizens and little care for their interests. We are unclear as to exactly when the pre-existing license is legally required to come to an end.

One thing we think everyone should be clear upon is that there has been no change to the process of establishing a new Registered Keeper. Nor has the V5C been replaced by new technology. It is still a paper document. It is still the job of the existing Registered Keeper when he sells or transfers a vehicle, to send the completed V5C, less the V5C/2 Tear Off which he has given to the 'new keeper, by post to DVLA in Swansea. Only when DVLA have processed the V5C is there a new Registered Keeper.

And we think it important also to remind everyone that a seller should never part with the V5C/2 tear off until the sale is complete and he has the buyer's money.

Another unsatisfactory aspect was that we were not able to see the online taxing process before it was introduced. Now it has appeared, our concern that the printable document resulting from online taxation would not satisfy overseas law enforcement officers as evidence that the vehicle is in fact taxed has proved correct. We will continue to press for a more convincing final output of the online process.

For those taxing at a Post Office the situation seems worse as we understand that all the keeper will have is a Post Office till receipt, and in the case of a Historic Class taxation there will be no receipt at all, as the tax is Nil Rate. The solution here is less clear but a printable final step to the Post Office process should not be beyond the wit of man.

And the double taxation row, whereby the licence becomes invalid immediately on sale, but the old keeper only gets a rebate in respect of full months, so loses some of his paid tax, is rumbling on. We have not given up on that either, though we do recognise that it only applies to newer vehicles, as for Historic class, and thus nil rate vehicles, there is obviously no rebate.