

Do you hold an Operator's Licence?

Explore our complete protection and assistance service for your operator's licence

Your operator's licence may be your company's most valuable asset. Without it, you cannot operate goods vehicles or buses. As an operator licence holder, your business and its transport managers are closely regulated by the Office of the Traffic Commissioner and the DVSA. A good relationship with the regulator is "mission-critical" to the success of your business.

Our service is a bespoke legal offering from Weightmans' specialist transport regulatory team.

Our service has three aims:

- **Growth:** Ensuring your operator's licence supports your business, rather than holds it back
- **Risk Management:** Identifying regulatory risk and responding to incidents
- **Regulatory Defence:** Representing your business and its drivers during DVSA investigations and Traffic Commissioner proceedings

Safe, profitable and successful operations depend upon our operator licence service.

Our services

Growth

An operator's licence should never be an afterthought. Strategic licensing advice at an early stage is crucial if you are planning to grow your fleet or restructure your business. This is also relevant if you are seeking to acquire or merge with another business that holds an operator's licence, add additional operating centres to your licence, or to expand existing sites.

We can:

- advise you in relation to any application to vary your operator's licence

- correspond as necessary with the regulator on your behalf to facilitate the grant of an application
- advise you on matters of financial standing
- assist you in your duties to notify the Office of the Traffic Commissioner of any material change to your business.



Risk management



Operating HGVs or buses is perhaps the highest risk activity undertaken by any business. Identifying and eliminating transport risk and responding effectively to incidents that occur should be a top priority for all operators.

We can:

- carry out a compliance health check of your business to assess any areas of risk and exposure
- review your core fleet risk policies to ensure they are in line with current legislation, and protect the interests of the company in the event of an incident
- assist you in reporting any prohibitions, fixed penalty notices or driver convictions to the Office of the Traffic Commissioner with a view to preventing regulatory escalation
- help you to carry out your own legally privileged internal investigation into incidents and “near misses” such as bridge strikes, collisions, prohibition notices and wheel losses
- provide bespoke training on transport regulatory matters, both board level and Transport Manager level.

Regulatory defence



No matter how large or compliant an operator is, accidents can still happen. Every year the Office of the Traffic Commissioner holds over 1,000 Public Inquiry and Preliminary Hearings, and many more driver conduct hearings. These usually follow an investigation by the DVSA.

We can:

- represent your business in any proceedings before the Traffic Commissioner, including Public Inquiries, Preliminary Hearings and Senior Team Leader meetings
- advise and represent you during any DVSA maintenance or drivers’ hours investigation, including at any interview under caution or compliance audit
- represent your drivers at any Driver Conduct Hearing or during any criminal proceedings with a view to protecting your company’s interests and reputation.

Proceedings of this kind can be extremely harmful to a company’s reputation. Our overriding focus is on reducing risk and exposure and minimising reputational damage.

We are here to help and lighten the load. Our specialist transport regulatory team cover the whole of the country, and are always available for a no-obligation conversation to discuss your requirements.

To find out more please contact our team.



Chris Powell

Principal Associate

T: (0)12 1616 6607

M: 07458 134 841

chris.powell@weightmans.com



Sarah Jennings

Solicitor

T: (0)151 242 1441

M: 07977 699 010

sarah.jennings@weightmans.com