

Baroness Vere of Norbiton  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London, SW1P 4DR

16 September 2022

Dear Baroness Vere,

### **DVLA AND UKRAINIAN REFUGEES**

On behalf of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) may I please seek your advice regarding the actions of the DVLA towards Ukrainian refugees.

LCCI has decided to do all that it can to support Ukraine during this traumatic time for the country. We are working with the Cabinet Office, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Work and Pensions to support Ukrainian refugees in London and to support businesses in Ukraine who are members of the Ukrainian Chambers of Commerce.

As part of this work, we have become aware that during the national period of mourning for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the DVLA chose this moment to change their policy towards Ukrainian refugees.

We understand that on 13 September, Ukrainian refugees were told to follow a new procedure for the licensing of cars dependant upon whether the vehicles have automatic or manual gear boxes. As you may be aware, a significant number of Ukrainian refugees fled their country by car. This sudden change in policy was surprising as we are under the impression that Ukrainian car licences already state whether licences are for automatic or manual cars but, it seems, the DVLA are not recognising this documentation.

We consider that it is unfortunate that when Ukrainian refugees were joining the nation at the moment of national mourning, that a major change in policy was announced. In addition, with Ukrainian refugees also having to adapt to life in the United Kingdom after having to leave their homes in the face of Putin's aggression, that complex arrangements were introduced by DVLA with, it seems, no advance warning offered to the refugees.

May we request that urgent consideration is given to returning to the status quo ante whilst consideration is also given as to what changes are practically required to continue to ensure our roads are safe and to minimise disruption to the lives of refugees.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Burge**  
Chief Executive

33 Queen Street, London EC4R 1AP T:+44(0)20 7248 4444 E:lc@londonchamber.co.uk W:londonchamber.co.uk  
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