



**Department
for Transport**

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From the Minister of State
The Rt. Hon. John Hayes CBE MP

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Our Ref: MC/182972
Your Ref: Council – Licensing - 20161109

21 DEC 2016

Dear Carolyn

Thank you for your letter of 15 November to Chris Grayling, regarding the experience in your area about the operation by tractors and if they are suitably licensed. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

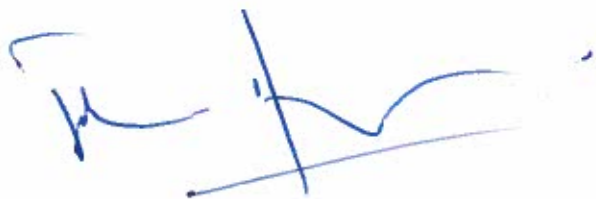
The licensing of commercial haulage (by vehicles over 3.5 tonnes) is an area of law that is governed by European Legislation under EC 1071/2009. UK law reflects these requirements. The UK, along with most other Member States, exempt vehicles used in agriculture, horticulture and fisheries. Vehicles can only be exempted if they do not travel at more than 40kph or only travel short distances and, of course, are not carrying goods for hire and reward.

From what you have described it may be that the activity is not exempt and should be conducted by licensed haulage. As such, I recommend that you pass on the details you have on this, or future incidents to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) to investigate, at Intelligenceunit@vosa.gsi.gov.uk

As wider context, you may be interested to note that the Government recently consulted on requiring roadworthiness testing for tractors (with a design speed above 40 km/h) that are being used for non-agricultural haulage. The Department is currently considering the responses and a decision is expected to be announced in 2017.

I hope you find this useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Hayes', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

THE RT. HON. JOHN HAYES CBE MP