



**Driver & Vehicle
Standards
Agency**

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our ref: 1612/00159

15 December 2016

Dear Dr Wilkins,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2016 about the licensing of agricultural tractors in the Oldham area.

I appreciate the concerns you have raised. I can assure you that we are aware of the issue and are targeting the subject vehicles in the Oldham and Royton area. We have issued three prohibitions to the operator in question, Whitfield Dairy Farm Ltd, and their vehicles that have not yet been presented for clearance.

On 18th October 2016, we attended a meeting in Royton Town Hall along with Royton Council, Greater Manchester Police and the Environmental Agency to discuss the operator. Our intelligence unit have been alerted to Whitefield Dairy Farm Ltd and are now fully aware of the situation. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have also been made aware.

In relation to the operator, Whitfield Dairy Farm Ltd had their Goods Vehicle Operators Licence revoked on 1 February 2016 and were told a reapplication would not be considered for at least 9 months. A Goods Vehicle Operators Licence is required when goods are transported for hire and reward by vehicles with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 3,500 kilograms. The regulations apply to the use of agricultural tractors if they are not being used for agricultural purposes. Since the licence was revoked, we have

inspected one vehicle which was considered for impounding. However, as the vehicle was leased from another party, they were given the opportunity to restore the vehicle. This party were told that any future encounters, in which the operator was proved to be using the vehicle for non-agricultural purposes, would result in DVSA impounding the vehicle.

We will continue targeting in the Oldham and Royton area; this includes any vehicles that are believed to be operated by Whitfield Dairy Farm Ltd, whilst in the course of our normal business with the resources we have available.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Llewellyn
Chief Executive