



Department
for Transport

Toby Poston
Director of Corporate Affairs
BVRLA

Ben Rimmington
Co-Director, Road Safety, Standards and
Services
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

2 April 2020

by email

Dear Toby,

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Essential Work of the Vehicle Rental Services Sector

I am writing to confirm that the Department for Transport considers it essential that the work of the vehicle rental service sector should continue to the greatest extent possible through the Covid-19 crisis.

Vehicle rental services were expressly excluded from the list of retail premises ordered to close on 23 March since they supply vehicles that are essential to the continuation of many essential services and basic economic activity. All travel related to the continuation of business of vehicle rental services such as delivery of vehicles or spare parts, and all necessary travel by vehicle rental services staff to their place of work should therefore be considered 'essential travel' in the context of current restrictions. That is of course with the important proviso that all staff should work at home if this is at all possible, and that Public Health England guidelines on social distancing should be observed.

We will communicate this to the National Police Chiefs Council to ensure it is shared with all police forces in the context of their important work to enforce the new restrictions on movement. I would be very happy for you to share this letter with your members, and for them to use it as evidence of the government position on this point in the event of any misunderstandings.

Thank you for everything you and your members are doing to keep essential services operating in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Rimmington".

Ben Rimmington