UK Brexit Technical Notice:
Driving in the EU if there's no Brexit deal

Government of Jersey Response

Summary of Technical Notice

How holders of UK driving licences would be affected if the UK leaves the EU with no deal.

The full text of the technical notice can be found here.

Response

Before March 2019

As the UK is part of the EU Common Transport Area, holding a Jersey licence has become an accepted means of allowing you to drive in the EU for work or pleasure, without other documents.

After March 2019 if there is no deal

Your driving licence may no longer be valid by itself when driving or hiring a vehicle in the EU. To drive or hire a car in the EU, you may need to obtain an International Driving Permit issued under the Authority of an International Convention.

The historic basis for Jersey drivers travelling abroad will is the United Nations' '1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic'. However, this Convention has since been supplanted in most European countries by the newer 1967 Vienna Convention and its provisions do not cover all EU countries, meaning that there may be hindrances to the free movement of Jersey vehicles on continental Europe.

To ensure the legitimate free movement of UK drivers post Brexit, the UK has recently ratified the Vienna Convention, this will come into effect for UK drivers in time for Brexit. The UK has offered to also extend the Vienna Convention to Jersey for the same reason.

Jersey's Council of Ministers has decided that Jersey should accept this offer, but to so require amendment to certain road traffic and vehicle Regulations to be agreed by the States Assembly, to be able to conform to Vienna's statutory requirements for road safety (including a national regime of vehicle road worthiness certification).

The States Assembly will consider whether to agree these regulatory amendments in October 2018. The outcome of this will determine the basis upon which Jersey drivers can travel in Europe post Brexit. This note will then be updated accordingly.