## UK Government \$% Motorists warned to steer clear of bogus driving licences licences

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## **Body**

Motorists are being warned to avoid buying documents claiming to be 'International *Driving Licences*'.

An enquiry by DTI's Companies Investigations Branch revealed that up to 4,000 of the documents - costing GBP 450 a time - have been sold by London-based company Daryadel Enterprises Limited. The <u>licences</u> indicate that they are issued by the 'United Nations International <u>Drivers</u>' Association' and endorsed by the State of Florida, USA. They also claim that these entitle people to drive in Great Britain and elsewhere. elsewhere.

Consumer Minister Melanie Johnson today confirmed that the <u>licences</u> do not entitle motorists to drive in Great Britain, and warned that thousands of the so-called 'International <u>Drivers' Licences</u>' are still being used by unwitting motorists.

"All motorists are at risk when something like this happens," said Miss Johnson. "We have petitioned the High Court to put a stop to it, but people relying on these *licences* should stop driving immediately.

"Motorists driving in Great Britain without a valid <u>licence</u> risk prosecution. They may also find that their insurance is void." DTI's investigation found that the company advertised the <u>licences</u> in ethnic newspapers. Most applicants were from Iran, Iraq and Turkey.

Motorists who suspect they may have bought one of these documents are advised that they are not valid for driving in Great Britain.

## Notes to Editors

- 1. New residents with non-European Community/European Economic Area (EC/EEA) <u>licences</u> may drive in Great Britain on the basis of their valid national <u>driving licence</u> or International Driving Permit for one year from the date they became resident.
- 2. After that, unless the <u>licence</u> was issued in a country which is designated by law for the purpose of exchanging <u>licences</u>, they do not have entitlement to drive unless they obtain a British provisional <u>licence</u> and pass a British driving test.
- 3. At present the following non-EC/EEA countries have been designated for <u>licence</u> exchange purposes: Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Isles, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Malta, New Zealand, Republic of Cyprus, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland and Zimbabwe. Valid <u>licences</u> from these countries may be exchanged for British <u>licences</u>.

If this is not done within the first 12 months driving must stop, although they may apply to exchange at any time within five years of becoming resident.

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- 4. To obtain a British provisional <u>licence</u> or exchange a designated country <u>licence</u> for a British <u>licence</u>, applicants must complete forms D1 and D750, available from the Post Office. Completed forms should be sent to the <u>Driver</u> and Vehicle <u>Licensing</u> Agency at the address given on the application forms, enclosing the relevant fee and identity documents. Additional information on this is available from information leaflet D100, also available from the Post Office.
- 5. British *licences* may be issued to residents of this country only.

Information about driving in Great Britain as a visitor or new resident is available on the DVLA website, at <a href="https://www.dvla.gov.uk">www.dvla.gov.uk</a>

- 6. The petition was presented under Section 124(A) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and was followed by an application for the appointment of the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator.
- 7. The registered office is shown as Room No 24, Ealing House, 33 Hanger Lane, London W5 3HJ and the company trades from Room 25 at the same address.
- 8. According to the Companies House register the current director is Mr Arash Daryadel and secretary is shown as Mrs Shadi Daryadel.
- 9. Any member of the public or creditor of the company with concerns should contact: Official Receiver 21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3SS Tel: 020 7637 6256.
- \$\times CONTACT: Public Enquiries\$\times Tel: +44 (0)20 7215 5000\$\times Textphone: +44 (0)20 7215 6740\$\times WWW: \http://www.dti.gov.uk\$\times\$\times\$

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## Classification

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