



Note No. A010/15

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions and international organisations and has the honour to refer to diplomatic driving permits and the requirement to obtain valid motor insurance.

Protocol Directorate wishes to remind missions that diplomatic agents, administrative & technical staff members, consular officers and consular employees, who wish to drive in the UK, must apply to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for a courtesy diplomatic driving permit. The DVLA requires a completed form D442/2 and a national driving licence, or an international driving permit. Further guidance can be found on the Protocol website.

Service staff (including drivers who have been accredited as such) are not eligible to apply for a diplomatic driving permit but must, within one year of arrival in the UK, apply for a UK driving licence.

Members of international organisations who enjoy privileges and immunity may apply for a diplomatic driving permit if they wish. However, they should also obtain a UK driving license as soon as possible.

Following a number of recent instances whereby diplomats have been found by the police to be driving without insurance, members of diplomatic missions and international organisations are reminded they must be covered by a valid motor insurance policy when driving in the UK. Failure to have motor insurance cover is considered a serious offence and details are included in the annual Written Ministerial Statement on offences allegedly committed by members of foreign missions and international organisations in the UK.

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office avails itself of this opportunity to express to all diplomatic missions and international organisations the assurances of its highest consideration.

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