Department of
Transport

Driver and Vehicle Industry Dashboard API consultation

17 September to 10 October 2021

Background information

The Department of Transport (DoT) is developing a tool known as an Application Programming Interface (API) to allow on-demand booking services (ODBS) to receive prescribed, relevant information about their drivers and vehicles automatically from DoT straight to their own systems. An API is simply a way for two different computer programs to talk to each other.

Currently, ODBSs and other authorised entities can manually access the Driver and Vehicle Industry Dashboard (DVID) by logging into DoTDirect. The proposed API will allow ODBSs to automate this process, creating efficiencies and time savings for their business.

The API will not replace the DVID – access to the DVID will remain as is. The API will merely provide an additional option for businesses to utilise.

As such, we are seeking feedback from ODBSs, entities with DVID access, or industry software providers, to help us build the best system possible.

Who should complete this survey?

You should complete this survey if you represent an ODBS or other entity authorised to access to the DVID.

How to complete this survey

This survey will outline three options for managing the proposed API, and ask you questions related to these options.

Some of these questions may be a bit technical. We recommend that you complete this survey alongside your record keeping software solution provider (if applicable), or any relevant technical staff in your organisation.

This survey should take 30 minutes to complete.

API options

DoT is considering three options for managing the API – individual live API call, managed list or combination of these.

The decision on which approach to use will be based on your feedback, system limitations and costs.

1. Individual live API call

This is DoT's preferred option.

The live API call would allow a business's system to send a message to DoT's API system each time they wanted to confirm a driver or vehicle's status and details.

For example, this could be checking that individual drivers or vehicles are authorised when they log on for a shift.

It is important that this option is not used as a proxy "list" – large volumes of queries should not be sent at once as that would slow down or crash the API. For system-load reasons, it would be best that individual API calls are made one at a time (or synchronously), instead of all at once (asynchronously).

2. Managed List

The API could work through a managed list where the business maintains lists of drivers and vehicles with DoT, and "downloads" a copy of their list on-demand through the API.

The business could then add or remove a driver or vehicle from their list through the API.

This is similar to how the current Driver and Vehicle Industry Dashboard works now.

3. Combined live lookup and managed list

The combined approach would allow businesses to run both individual API calls, and access a managed list of drivers and vehicles they dispatch work to.

Live or cached data

The current DVID, accessed via DoTDirect, uses cached (stored) data which is updated 4 times a day.

Live data would be more accurate but less responsive (slower to ping back to you), while cached data would be more responsive but may be several hours out of date.

DoT may decide to continue using a cached data approach in the API, or we may develop the system to provide for live data – this decision will depend on system limitations and cost/benefit analysis.

Proposed API functionality

Using the proposed API, you would be able to complete the below actions.

Drivers

- add driver to list;
- remove driver from list;
- retrieve list of drivers; and
- individual driver lookup (as per option 1 – cached or not cached).

Vehicles

- add vehicle to list (requires plate number and sometimes VIN);
- remove vehicle from list;
- retrieve list of vehicles; and
- individual vehicle lookup (as per option 1 – cached or not cached).

What information do you need to provide?

To look up a **driver**, you will need to provide:

- driver's licence number;

- date of birth; and
- surname.

To look up a **vehicle**, you will need to provide:

- plate number; and
- VIN (under certain circumstances).

What information is DoT able to share?

Due to provisions under the *Transport (Road Passenger Services) Act 2018* and other pieces of road legislation, there's some information we are able to provide to you and some that we are not.

DoT **can** provide information to you about:

- driver's licence number, surname and date of birth (if you provide it to us first);
- passenger transport driver (PTD) information, including:
  - o PTD authorisation number, status and expiry;
  - o any conditions against the PTD authorisation; and
  - o date driver last checked in DVID
- passenger transport vehicle (PTV) information, including:
  - o PTV authorisation number and status;
  - o plate number;
  - o defect status;
  - o any conditions against the PTV authorisation;
  - o whether there is an active improvement notice against the PTV; and
  - o number of improvement notices issued against the PTV in the last 6 months.

DoT **cannot** provide information to third parties about:

- driver's licence information, including:
  - o status or date of status changes (for example, cancellation and reinstatement details);
  - o expiry date;
  - o whether it is an extraordinary licence;
  - o any licence conditions;
  - o licence categories;
- driver NPC and medical due dates;
- vehicle information, including:
  - o VIN/chassis number;
  - o make and model;
  - o seating capacity;
  - o registration status and expiry date;

o   any outstanding improvement notices.

Terms / non-negotiables

- Terms and conditions will apply.
    - o   Access to the API will only be available to authorised ODBSs, or other entities that apply for and are granted access by DoT.
    - o   The API can only be used in relation to your role in the passenger transport industry.
    - o   Users will be subject to any usage volume limitations set by DoT – this will help us to maintain system integrity and functionality.
- Final decisions around system specifications for live or cached data will be determined by DoT based on system limitations and cost benefit.
- Separate API authentication keys will be provided for each ODBS or entity authorised to access the DVID. If you're using a software provider, they may be able to access the API on your behalf.