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Private (personalised) number plates

1. Overview

You can buy a private (personalised) number plate (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/buying-a-private-number-plate>) for your vehicle from [DVLA](#) or from a private dealer.

Take a private number off ('retention')

If you don't want to use your private number anymore you can apply to take it off your vehicle (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/take-private-number-off>), You can hold on to it until you want to use it again in the future - this is sometimes called putting it 'on retention'.

You'll get a V778 certificate proving you still have the right to use the number.

Selling a private number

You can also sell your private number if you don't want to use it anymore.

If you're selling your private number online, don't share a scan or photograph of the V750 or V778 certificate. Someone other than the buyer might use it to put the private number on another vehicle.

Assign ('put on') a private number to a vehicle

If you have the right to a private number that isn't currently being used, you can apply to assign it to a vehicle (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/keep-or-assign>).

Transfer a number from one vehicle to another

To transfer a private number from one vehicle to another, you need to:

1. Take it off the vehicle (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/take-private-number-off>) you're transferring it from.
2. Assign it to the vehicle (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/keep-or-assign>) you're transferring it to.

You can also do this by post using form V317 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-transfer-or-retain-a-vehicle-registration-number>).

2. Buy a private number plate

Buy from [DVLA](#)

You can buy new numbers from [DVLA Personalised Registrations](http://dvlaregistrations.direct.gov.uk/) (<http://dvlaregistrations.direct.gov.uk/>).

Buying at [DVLA](http://dvlaregistrations.direct.gov.uk/) auctions

There are auctions across the country (<http://dvlaregistrations.direct.gov.uk/auction/>) about 6 times a year. You can see a list of the numbers coming up for auction (<http://dvlaregistrations.direct.gov.uk/auction/newcatalogue/>).

You can bid in person, by phone, in writing or online.

You'll get a V750 certificate of entitlement once you've paid for the private (personalised) number. This is to prove that you have the right to use a private number plate.

Buying from a private dealer or person

You can buy a private number from a dealer or from another person.

Make sure you get a V750 or V778 document from the seller to prove you have the right to use the number. You'll need it to assign the number to a vehicle.

3. Assign a private number to a vehicle

To assign a private (personalised) number to a vehicle, you need either a:

- V778 retention document
- V750 certificate of entitlement
- online reference number

You get one of these when you either buy a number (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/buying-a-personalised-registration-number>) or take a number from another vehicle (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/take-private-number-off>) you own.

Assign the number to a vehicle you already own

You can assign a private number online (<https://www.gov.uk/put-registration-number-vehicle>) or by post.

You can't assign a number starting with 'Q' or 'NIQ'.

The vehicle must:

- be registered with [DVLA](http://dvlaregistrations.direct.gov.uk/) in the UK
- be available for inspection
- be able to move under its own power
- be of a type that needs an MOT or heavy goods vehicle ([HGV](http://www.gov.uk/hgv)) test certificate
- either have been taxed (<https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax>) (or have had a SORN (<https://www.gov.uk/sorn>-statutory-off-road-notification) in place) continuously for the last 5 years.

Your vehicle will need to be taxed if it's had a SORN for longer than 5 years. It might also need to be inspected.

It doesn't cost anything to do this.

DVLA will send you a new log book (V5C) in the post.

You must put new number plates on the vehicle before you drive it.

Assign a private number to a brand new vehicle

You can ask your car dealer to assign a private number to a vehicle you're buying. Give the dealer your V750 or V778 document.

Your dealer can also transfer your private number from a vehicle you own to a vehicle you're buying.

Both vehicles must be of a type that needs an MOT or heavy goods vehicle (HGV) test certificate.

If you're transferring the number from a vehicle you own, DVLA will send you the new log book (V5C) for that vehicle with a new registration number.

You must not sell or get rid of a vehicle until you get the new log book (V5C).

4. Take a private number off a vehicle

You can take a private (personalised) number off a car if you either:

- don't want to use it right now
- want to assign it ('put it on') to another vehicle

Eligibility

You must be the registered keeper and have the vehicle's log book (V5C).

You can't keep a number starting with 'Q' or 'NIQ'.

The vehicle must:

- be registered with DVLA in the UK
- be available for inspection
- be able to move under its own power
- be of a type that needs an MOT or heavy goods vehicle (HGV) test certificate
- either have been taxed (<https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax>) (or have had a SORN (<https://www.gov.uk/sorn-statutory-off-road-notification>) in place) continuously for the last 5 years

Your vehicle will need to be taxed if it's had a SORN for longer than 5 years. It might also need to be inspected.

How to take off a number

You can take off a private number online (<https://www.gov.uk/keep-registration-number>) or by post. It costs £80. If you don't assign the number within 6 years, you can apply for a refund.

You can't use the online service if the vehicle isn't in your name, you have to apply by post (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-transfer-or-retain-a-vehicle-registration-number>).

What happens to the vehicle

The vehicle will get a new number assigned to it straight away if you do it online, it takes longer by post.

You'll need to get new number plates made (<https://www.gov.uk/number-plate-supplier>).

What happens to the number

You'll get a V778 document that proves you still have the right to use the number for the next 10 years. You must renew your right to use a private number (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/renew-private-number-certificate>) before it expires.

If you've taken the number off a vehicle online, you can assign it to another vehicle (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/keep-or-assign>) straight away - use the reference number you get at the end.

5. Renew your private number

You must renew your right to use your private (personalised) number every 10 years if it's not being used on a vehicle. If you got your private number before 2015, you must renew it more often - check your V750 or V778 document.

Renew your V750 certificate of entitlement or V778 retention document

You'll get a reminder letter or email if you're not using a private number and your right to use it is about to run out.

You can renew it for up to 10 years, and it doesn't cost anything to do.

Renew your V750 online

You can renew your V750 by creating a [DVLA](https://secure.dvla.gov.uk) personalised registration account (https://secure.dvla.gov.uk/SOM/pageflows/dvla/SOMWeb/SOMWebController.jpf?service_code=MYACCOUNT&lang=en/) or by using your existing account.

Renew by post

Fill in the form on the V750 or V778.

Send the V750 or V778 to the address on the form.

If your V750 or V778 has expired

You can buy the right to use a private registration number again if the V750 or V778 expired on or after 1 May 2011.

It costs £25 for each year that the certificate has expired. Any time under 1 year costs the same as a full year, for example if your certificate expired 2 years 1 month ago, you'll have to pay for 3 years (£75).

Fill in the form on the V750 or V778. Send it with the fee to the address on the form.

If you don't have your V750 or V778, send a letter to DVLA Personalised Registrations. You'll need to explain why you don't have your V750 or V778. Include the fee, your private number and proof of your name and address, for example your driving licence or both your passport and a utility bill.

Replace a lost or stolen V750 or V778

You can send a letter to ask for a replacement if you're the person with the right to use the number (the 'grantee'). If you're the grantee your name will be on the V778 or V750.

It'll take around 3 to 4 weeks for the new V750 or V778 to arrive.

DVLA Personalised Registrations

DVLA

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6. Give a private number to someone else

You can put your private number on someone else's vehicle either online or by post. Once it's on there, they have the option to take the number off (<https://www.gov.uk/personalised-vehicle-registration-numbers/take-private-number-off>).

Online

Assign your private number (<https://www.gov.uk/put-registration-number-vehicle>) to someone else's vehicle. You'll need to enter details from that vehicle's log book (V5C).

DVLA will send a replacement log book for the vehicle, but with the new private number assigned to it.

By post

Fill in section 2 of your V778 or V750, and post it to DVLA along with the log book (V5C) for the vehicle you want to put the private number on. The address is on the form.

DVLA will send a replacement log book for the vehicle, but with the new private number assigned to it.

If the nominee dies

The person who has the right to use the private number can change the nominee by sending a letter and the V750 or V778 to DVLA Personalised Registrations.

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7. Change your name and address

You can change the name and address on your V750 or V778 by post. You can also change the address on your V750 online.

Change the address on your V750 online

Use your DVLA personalised registration account

(https://secure.dvlaregistrations.direct.gov.uk/SOM/pageflows/dvla/SOMWeb/SOMWebController.jspf?service_code=MYACCOUNT&lang=en/).

Change your name and address by post

You need to return the V750 or V778 with a letter saying what the new name or address is.

Send them back to DVLA Personalised Registrations.

If you don't have the V750 or V778 you'll need to send a signed letter with proof of your name or address.

For a change to your address, send a copy of a:

- household bill sent to you in the last 3 months
- Council Tax bill for this year
- bank or building society statement sent to you in the last 3 months
- medical card

For a change to your name, send a copy of you:

- current British driving licence
- EU passport
- birth certificate
- marriage certificate
- decree nisi or decree absolute

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Fix mistakes

You need to return the V750 or V778 with a letter saying what the mistakes are.

Send them back to DVLA Personalised Registrations (the address is written on the back of the V750 and V778).

8. If the person with the right to use the private number dies

If someone has died and left you a personalised number in their will, or you're in charge of the will (the 'executor'), you can:

- keep the private number
- transfer it to another vehicle
- put it in someone else's name
- give up the right to use the number (you can apply for a refund)

To do this, you'll need to send a form to [DVLA](#), along with documents that prove you have the right to use the number.

Prove you've got the right to use the number

You need to send the probate, or a certified copy (<https://www.gov.uk/certifying-a-document>), to [DVLA](#) when you send in your form.

If you can't send the probate, send a copy of the death certificate with either:

- a copy of the will
- a letter from the solicitor confirming who the executor or next of kin is

Keep or transfer the number, or give it to someone else

Which form you send depends on whether the number is already on ('assigned to') a vehicle.

If the number is already assigned to a vehicle

Fill in the V317 form (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-transfer-or-retain-a-vehicle-registration-number>).

Send the form with the log book (V5C) to [DVLA](#), along with the documents that prove you've got the right to use the number.

It costs £80.

[DVLA](#) Personalised Registrations
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If the number hasn't been assigned to a vehicle

Send the documents that prove you've got the right to use the number and either the:

- V778 retention form
- V750 certificate of entitlement form

The executor must sign the V778 or V750 before you send it.

You must also send a covering letter from the executor saying if you want to:

- keep the number
- give the number to someone else

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If you don't have the V778 or V750

Send [DVLA](#):

- the documents that prove you have the right to use the number
- a covering letter signed by the executor confirming that you don't have the forms, and explaining what you want to do with the number

Give up the right to use the private number

You may be able to get a refund of the £80 assignment fee if a private number was not assigned to a vehicle after the fee was paid.

Check the V778 or V750 certificate to find out if a fee was paid.

Whether you can get a refund depends on the date of the most recent certificate (V778 or V750) and whether the certificate has expired.

If the certificate was issued before 9 March 2015, you can get a refund if the certificate has expired within the past 6 years.

If the certificate was issued on or after 9 March 2015, you can only get a refund if the certificate has not expired.

Send the documents that prove you've got the right to use the number to [DVLA](#) and either the:

- V778 retention form - tick section 4
- V750 certificate of entitlement form - tick section 5

The executor must sign the V778 or V750 before you send it.

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[DVLA](#)
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If you don't have the V778 or V750

Send [DVLA](#):

- the documents that prove you have the right to use the number
- a covering letter signed by the executor confirming that you don't have the forms, and explaining what you want to do with the number