

In my opinion the proposed 8 seater seat requirement changes are unfair and will marginalise smaller companies in what is already a trade dominated by a handful of companies. The proposal states "the front seat is too narrow, leg room is insufficient and the passenger would be required to sit at very close proximity to the driver". The width of the seat and leg space are in line with what you will experience in any normal saloon car. Sitting in close proximity to the driver is not a problem when you consider all drivers have gone through a severe scrutiny process to gain a licence from the council and have been found to be "fit and proper" person to hold a taxi licence. All vehicles on UK roads have to go thorough strict UK & EU regulation and compliance before they are certified as road worthy so for the proposal to suggest 8 seater vehicles are inappropriate to carry 8 passengers are short sighted and in the surface unfounded. What data does the council have to support their reasoning? How many customer complaints have there been on this issue? The impact on small companies will be in £000's and will cause the competitive taxi market to be further dominated by several big firms and will cause some firms to stop trading. Vehicles used under the Public Service Vehicle (PSV) operator's licence issued by the Traffic Commissioner have no such restrictions. It is permissible under this type of licence to use the exact same vehicles without any restrictions and I am not aware of any neighbouring authorises having such restrictions. The proposal is only considering the experience of the customer and needs to look at the impact on operators and drivers.

To whom it May Concern,

I would like to make suggestion's towards the council's current Hackney Carriage and Private hire licensing policy.

Firstly, i think it is unfair as Hackney carriage vehicles are allowed to use tariff 2 after 6pm, whereas private hire vehicles are not able to do this. Therefore, to make it fairer i think one price policy should be implemented for all taxi drivers regardless of whether they are a hackney carriage or a private hire. In regards to pricing, I think that the current prices such as airport prices in and around high wycombe are very old prices going back at least 20 years. However, given the current economic climate and inflation, I think that the airport prices should be increased by at least £20. Furthermore to hackney carriage vehicles, hardly any wheelchair users use the disabled access vehicles off the rank, therefor, we should have more saloon and MPV vehicles instead of these big disabled accessible vehicles. The council should also, review the policy on hackney carriage vehicles and the disabled access should be made accessible from the rear of the view and not the side.

I think that the council should have a no stickers policy as many neighboring borough's such as Maidenhead, Windsor and Slough do not have stickers on the doors. On this note, i think that the council should also, take into consideration the size of the licensing plate as it is far too big in comparison with Maidenhead's licensing plate for the vehicles. This makes the cars appear smarter and gives a good impression of the district. To overcome the confusion of which car is for a particular customer, private hire firms should update their software systems so that the customer receives a text message of the vehicle registration mark(VRM) and knows which taxi to get into.

The knowledge test in high wycombe needs to be made more easier as it is a lot harder for new applicants to pass. In London, majority of black cab drivers still use Satnav's therefor, it defeats the purpose of a knowledge test if we have technology that will enable and assist us with our everyday lives. Also, passing the driving test is inappropriate as the applicant will already have held a valid driving licence for a minimum of 3 years, therefor, in my humble opinion i think this is a complete waste of time and money.

Thanks you for considering my views. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

I am in favour of issue of license at the age of 5 and length of 10 years instead of 4 and 8. It will make life a bit easier. Tnx

I am in favour of amendment that license should be issued at 5 years of age and 10 years of length instead of 4 years and 8 years.

I read your taxi policy in that you saying you are going reduce Taxi WAV limit down to 10 years. I believe this is not fair for people like my self as a new car cost £30000 for your requirements so we can't afford that much money to buy new car.

if you look in to the PCO LICENCE POLICY there is limit for black cab, which is 22 Years, so i request you to keep the same policy for old vehicles and apply the new rules to the new vehicles when they have completed their 14 year limits.

If you allow us to put vehicles with rear wheelchair access then you can reduce age limit to 10 years as they are like a normal cars as they are easy for customer to get in and out of.

I plead with you to think about drivers like myself who cannot afford to repay before you apply these new regulations.

Increasing the age of Taxi/Private Hire cars from 8 to 10 years to drive. Companies will be able to driver two more years and this will save money on longer run, There is a lot of competition and its hard to earn money. Also the age of a car from 4 to 5 years when its first licensed is a good option because our neighbouring councils have already these policies in place and this is very attractive for lots of company owners to settle in this area. I personally know lot of drivers who have completely moved from Wycombe Council to South Bucks and Henley Council, because its far more money saving option for companies and drivers. I know also drivers who are not licensed by Wycombe council but do they do still work in High Wycombe with neighbouring councils Plates and Badges. The point of having to Mot your licensed car every 6 months after 6 years doesn't make any sense because if your car is broken you would repair it and then drive. All cars in UK they are Mot every 1year so this is safe also according to the government, Even in South bucks Council they have every year MOT and Renewal of the license. Kind Regards,

To

The Taxi Licensing Officer

Dear officer

I read your taxi policy in that you saying you are gonna reduce Taxi WAV limit down to 10 years. It's not fair with us .new car cost £30000 for your requirement.so we can't offered that much money to buy new car .if you look inPCO LICENCE POLICY there is limit for black cab is 22 Years.so i request you to keep the same policy for old vehicles and apply on new rules to new vehicles when these are complete their 14 year limits.and when drivers start putting new vehicles.then these new rules apply.

If you allow us to put vehicles with rear wheelchair access then you can reduce age limit to 10years .they are like a normal car .They are easy for customer to get in & out.so again I request you to think about for the rear wheelchair access vehicles.i hope you will rethink about us before you apply these new regulations.I got a house and need to pay mortgage for my house . So I can't offered that much money to spend on car which is lost 10 years.£30000 is a lot of money. if you change into rear wheelchair access then it's fine.Because they are like normal car easy to buy.I hope you must rethink about this meter and give us choice for saloon or rear wheelchair access vehicles.

Your sincerely

Further to my previous comments I feel that all wheelchair accessible vehicles should be side loading. 1. It would not be user friendly or very safe to load a wheelchair from the rear on the high street or any off the ranks as you would be causing a obstruction on the main highway as all the ranks have passing traffic they are not in a pedestrianised area. There are other public transport and emergency vehicles using these areas and it would cause traffic chaos 2. If you are flagged down in a busy road i.e. Marlow high street again you would have to go in the main road whilst if it is a side loading vehicle you can load from the kerb and cause no obstruction. 3. Before rear loading accessible vehicles are authorised as Hackney carriage vehicles I feel a risk assessment should be carried out and it should be compulsory for drivers whilst plying for hire to wear reflective jackets so they can be clearly seen when they are loading a wheelchair in the interest of there safety and there passenger safety and overall public safety of Wycombe district council residents. A lot of people will be pushing for wycombe district council to allow for rear loading vehicles to be authorised this is due to the price element because they are 1800 pounds cheaper then side loading vehicles again the people are not looking at a broader picture of their and public safety which is of paramount importance . I feel I owe it to the community of Wycombe district council area as it would be very upsetting to read in the local gazette that some body has driven into the rear of a taxi whilst being loaded with a wheelchair due to the driver not being seen

I fully agree with the reduction of the current age limit of the wheelchair accessible vehicles as some of them are very tatty and they are being used as normal rank vehicles (considering some of them have been converted from vans) so they are doing the same mileage as saloon cars I feel there should be a grace period of 6 months for the vehicles which have reached the age limit of 10 years on the implementation of the new policy. To replace these vehicles will cost an average of 6000 for a 5 year old accessible vehicles with a decent mileage of 60,000 which I can't see causing any one financial hardship considering they will be able to license these vehicles for up to 10 years. I feel that the new policy will be superb for the trade and is very clear and to the point and user friendly credit must be given to the team members who have put this policy together to bring wycombe district council in line with other authorities people always find change difficult but this new policy is workable I've been in the trade for over 10 years and implementation of this policy would be good value for money. Licensing officers should be given more authority so they can make decisions rather than having to refer cases which isn't very cost effective and also time consuming.

To

The Taxi Licensing Officer

Dear officer

I read your taxi policy in that you saying you are gonna reduce Taxi WAV limit down to 10 years. It's not fair with drivers.new car cost £350000 for your requirement.so we can't offered that much money to buy new car .i request you to keep the same policy for old vehicles and apply on new rules to new vehicles when these are complete their limits.and drivers start putting new vehicles.then these new rules apply.

If you allow us to put vehicles with rear wheelchair access then you can reduce age limit to 10years .they are like a normal car cost less than side access vehicles . They are easy for customer to get in . In side access is hard for old people to get in .so again I request you to think about for the rear wheelchair access vehicles.i hope you will rethink about us before you apply these new regulations.like me I got four kids and need to pay rent for my house . So I can't offered that much money to spend on car which is lost 10years .I'm working for Arrows when I take the current WAV HACKNEY to customers I think about 50 customers are refused to get in .they saying its to big to high can't get in this and that.too many times I waited to long in high street when customer comes and say the same thing.if you change into rear wheelchair access then customers have no issues. Coz they are like normal car I hope you must rethink about these issues.

Your sincerely

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this due to the fact that I and many others do not agree with the new policy that you are implanting and suggest that this change is not made as it is not going to benefit many people, additionally just is a hassle to repeatedly do a test will be not only inconvenient but time consuming and I personally see no reason in doing so. I hope you can get back to me as soon as and am awaiting on your response.

Eye tests should be repeated every 12 months and more often for the over 60s these should be done at an optician not at a GP surgery.

Licensing Head Afternoon, As to my recent phone queries there have been few questions from myself and some of our employees regarding the new policy. Q1 who will provide the CSE and how will the drivers be examined the what procedures will be taken. If the drivers have already done similar training for Bucks county council will that also be taken to consideration If the drivers have done NVQ for taxi Will the council rather than leasing the DSA test to other private company consider a Pass Plus as an option which many other council are currently using. We all agree that the public safety is important but there have been growing number of taxis from other boroughs working in High Wycombe which is not a problem but speaking to many drivers who drive these taxis are drivers who have not been able to pass the local knowledge test due to the questions being long and difficult and no training or material being given. I would recommend that the council should be more lenient in its stance with Knowledge test and maybe reduce the number of questions being asked. If this carries on the local trade will have no choice but to recruit from other boroughs and the council will lose huge chunks of money which was coming in to the council from the drivers and companies. Displaying Stickers on Doors if the car is plated in another borough then we have to look in their advisement policy. These are just few point in the policy that we feel need to be looked in to and amended before it can be presented before the trade and general discussion.

After reading the draft Hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy I noticed several positive amendments to the policy and I agree to all but one; the revocation of licence. This proposal states that a driver's licence can be immediately revoked if they are accused of an inappropriate behaviour towards the passenger. However, I believe that a driver's license should not be revoked until evidence and with proper witnesses is shown to support their story. It is unjustifiable if a driver's licence is revoked without evidence because it could be a false allegation and this can negatively affect someone's life.

