

AGENDA NO

OTHER LICENSING COMMITTEE

8 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATION, DEMOCRATIC AND
ELECTORAL SERVICES

PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING POLICY AMENDMENTS - CONSULTATION

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update Members on a recent Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy consultation and provide further information which was requested at the licensing committee hearing on 27 August 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

Members' comments are received on proposed changes to the current policy.

Detail

1. At the Taxi Trade meeting in June 2019 private hire operators in attendance requested formal consideration of proposed amendments to the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy. In addition a request was received from the chairman of the Stockton Hackney Carriage Driver Association (SHCDA) for an amendment to policy. The requested changes to the current policy could bring licensed driver and vehicle requirements and specifications in line with the neighbouring Tees Valley Licensing Authorities.
2. A 28 day period of consultation was undertaken giving all stakeholders opportunity to comment of the proposed changes. The electronic consultation survey was sent to all licensees via the Trade Times. In addition the link was emailed to private hire operators, SHCDA, other local authorities and the police. The consultation has now closed and details of the responses are attached at Appendix 1.
3. ***New Applicant DVLA licence requirement***
The trade have requested the current policy is amended for new applicants to have held a full DVLA licence for 12 months rather than the current policy requirement of three years. The trade have commented this higher requirement is making it increasingly difficult to recruit new drivers, the trade raised issues raised regarding cross border applications with other authorities and requested the need for an equitable approach across the Tees Valley.
4. Members should note that it is a legal requirement under section 51 of The Local Government Miscellaneous Act 1976 for new applicants to have held a full DVLA licence for 12 months only before a licence is granted. The current three year requirement was introduced by this authority at the 2016 transport policy review and was based on LGA guidance that had just been released.
5. The other Tees Valley Authorities did not adopt the LGA guidance on this matter and therefore only require the applicant to have held a licence for 12 months. A Tees Valley policy comparison table on the DVLA licence requirement of new applicants is attached as Appendix 2.

6. The response to the consultation from the trade was highly in favour of this policy change.
7. No quantifiable data is available on driving experience. A driver could for example have held a DVLA licence for three years and not driven a vehicle during this time. It is perhaps assumed in some cases experience comes with age. Data supplied by the Tees Valley Authorities show the current numbers of drivers 21 years or younger, is low. Indicating the Private Hire or Hackney Carriage profession does not attract young drivers.

Local Authority	Total drivers on Fleet 09.09.19	Driver under 21 years
Middlesbrough	1342	3
Hartlepool	465	0
Redcar	422	0
Darlington	438	0
Stockton	815	0

8. The twelve North East Local Authorities hold a register on driver licence refusals / revocations and suspensions. Since November 2017 304 drivers have been added to this register, 6 of those were born in 1995 or before (24 years) at the time they were refused or revoked. Although this is not a comparison of driving experience data, it is an indication of the numbers of drivers under the age of 24 being refused / revoked or suspended in the North East.
9. Members should note all new applicants have to complete and pass the Tees Valley Taxi Driving Assessment before a licence is granted, which is a written and practical advanced driving assessment.
10. Members should also note there has been a reduction in the number of new driver application received by the authority, the table below shows data of new applications received.

SBC new driver applications received		SBC total licensed drivers numbers from service plan at end of year	
16/17	104	16/17	874
17/18	80	17/18	860
18/19	62	18/19	837
Apr – 16.09.19	11	August 2019	815

11. In light of the above additional information and to ensure a level playing field across the Tees Valley, it is proposed that Cabinet consider recommending to Council reducing the requirements for new applicants to have held a full DVLA licence to 12 months, rather than the current policy requirement of three years.

12. **Vehicle Specification**

Currently this authority will not licence any category of insurance write off vehicles. The trade have requested the current policy is amended to licence these vehicles, which can be licensed with other neighbouring and wider local authorities.

13. Due to the Deregulation Act 2015 Stockton licensed Private Hire Operators can subcontract work to other operators, vehicles and drivers licensed with other authorities. These vehicles and drivers are currently operating within the Borough, but are out of the control of this authority.
14. For the purposes of clarity an insurance write-off means a vehicle that has either sustained a level of damage that deems it unsafe to go back on the road, or it remains safe to drive but is beyond economical repair. The insurance write off categories are:

Cat A - Scrap only. For vehicle so badly damaged they should be crushed and even salvageable parts must be destroyed

Cat B - Body shell should be crushed. Signifies extensive damage, although some parts are salvageable.

Cat S (was C) - The vehicle has suffered structural damage. This could include a bent or twisted chassis, or a crumple zone that has collapsed in a crash and the vehicle will need to be professionally repaired, it won't be safe to drive until repairs have been completed.

Cat N (was D) - Vehicles have not sustained structural damage to the frame or chassis, the issue may have been cosmetic, however it is not economical to repair. Examples may include lights, infotainment, electrics or even heated seats.

15. In comparing other Tees Valley authorities:

- Darlington have a policy in line with Stockton but are currently considering reviewing it to allow C/S, and D/N.
- Hartlepool and Redcar allow categories C/S, and D/N vehicles with a compliance test at their own testing station.
- Middlesbrough allow C/S and D/N vehicles but require an engineer's report and in some cases a JIG report as well as a compliance inspection at their own depot.
- A Tees Valley policy comparison table on vehicle specification is attached as Appendix 3.

16. This authority encourages modern vehicles in a bid to improve the licensed fleet and improve air quality. From the 1 January 2020 an age restriction policy will be introduced for all private hire and hackney carriage saloon vehicles. Applications will only be considered if the vehicle is no older than five years from the date of first registration. Any renewal of an existing private hire or hackney carriage saloon vehicle will only be granted if the vehicle does not exceed the maximum age limit of twelve years.

17. The increased complexity of modern cars, mean more cars are being classed as insurance write off categories despite not being very old due to the increased costs of repairing them, resulting in some vehicles remaining safe and suitable being wrote off as a result of the insurance company stated costs of repair.

18. The response to the consultation from the trade was highly in favour of this policy change.

19. In light of the above additional information and to ensure a more level playing field across the Tees Valley it is proposed Cabinet consider recommending to Council to allow insurance category D/N vehicles to be licensed.

20. *Tinted Windows Specification*

The trade have requested the current specification on tinted windows is amended to reflect factory fitted tints which come as standard in most modern vehicles. Currently this authority require light transmission of 75% in the vehicle windscreen and 70% in all other windows.

21. In comparing other Tees Valley authorities:

- Darlington have a policy in line with Stockton.
- Middlesbrough require light transmission of 75% in the windscreen, 70% in the front windows and 30% in rear windows.
- Hartlepool require light transmission of 75% in the windscreen, 70% in the front windows and 30% in rear windows.
- Redcar require light transmission of 75% in the windscreen, 70% in the front windows and 34% in rear windows.
- A Tees Valley policy comparison table on tinted windows in vehicles is attached as Appendix 4.

22. The response to the consultation from the trade was highly in favour of this policy change.

23. In light of the above additional information and to ensure a more level playing field across the Tees Valley it is proposed Cabinet consider recommending to Council that we allow vehicles to have standard factory fitted tinted windows.
24. Next Steps – summary of the consultation with the trade and licensing committee will be considered by Cabinet on 14 November 2019 and full Council on 20 November 2019. Following approval any changes agreed would come in to immediate effect.
25. The trade will be informed of decisions via emails to private hire operators and the SHCDA, via the trade Facebook page and via the website. In addition the requests and decisions will be added to the agenda at the next trade meeting on 5 December 2019.

**Assistant Director Administration
Democratic and Electoral Services**

Margaret Waggott

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Financial Implications:

None

Environmental Implications:

None

Legal Implications:

Any decision taken on the implementation of a new policy could be judicially reviewed within 10 weeks to the Administrative Court.

Community Safety Implications:

Control and regulation of the private hire and hackney carriage trade ensures the safety of the public and other road users.

Human Rights Implications:

None

Background Papers:

Appendices

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward related

Report Settings Summary

Event	Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Review 2019
Total Responses	43
Total Respondents	1
Questions	All
Filter	<i>(none)</i>
Pivot	<i>(none)</i>
Document Name	Interim Report 13082019
Created on	2019-08-13 08:08:40
Created by	Mrs Lisa Cummings

Table .1

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Introduction

The Licensing Service is considering amending the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy, and wishes to seek the views of the Trade on the following proposed changes to the policy:

There is no data to display for this question

Current Policy

A driver's licence will not be granted to anyone who has not held a full driving licence for a period of three years. Full driving licences issued by EEA states will also count towards this qualification requirement and equal recognition can now also be given to Northern Ireland driving licences.

There is no data to display for this question

Proposed Policy Change

A driver's licence cannot be granted to anyone who has not held a full driving licence for a period of at least twelve months. Only full driving licences issued in the UK, the European Community (EC) or one of the other countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) or from some designated countries that have exchange agreements with the UK, will count towards this qualification requirement. Equal recognition can now also be given to Northern Ireland driving licences. Further details can be found at www.dvla.gov.uk

There is no data to display for this question

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Question responses: **43 (100.00%)**

Do you agree with the above policy change?

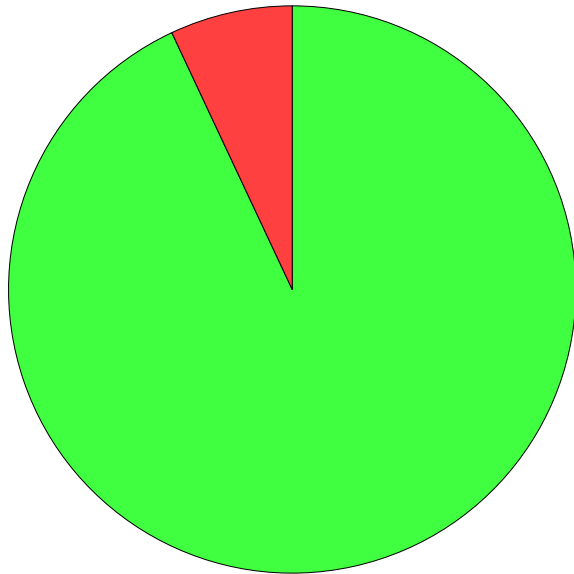


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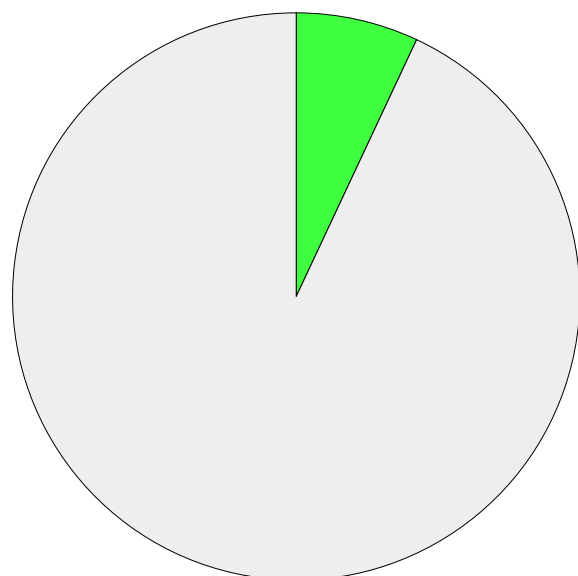
	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	93.02%	93.02%	40
No	6.98%	6.98%	3
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Driving Experience Comments

Question responses: **3 (6.98%)**

Please use this space if you would like to comment further on this proposed policy change:



	% Total	% Answer	Count
■ [Responses]	6.98%	100.00%	3
■ [No Response]	93.02%	--	40
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Table .1

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
1				we are short of drivers so if you change the policy we can have more drivers then we can improve our service	17/07/19 18:18	0.1	Submitted	web

Driving Experience Comments

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
3				Must have 3 yrs of driving experience and with a uk driving licence	18/07/19 11:43	0.1	Submitted	web
6				(department for transport taxi and private hire vehicle licensing best practice guidance) it states that drivers of hackney carriage vehicles need a good working knowledge of the local area for which they are licensed, because taxis can be hired immediately, directly with the driver, at ranks or on the street. however private hire drivers can only be booked through an operator so the driver will have the opportunity to check the details of a route before starting a journey. therefore it is unnecessarily burdensome to require a would be PHV driver to pass the same 'knowledge' test as a taxi driver.	18/07/19 12:34	0.1	Submitted	web

Table .3

Current Policy

Vehicles that have been deemed to be an insurance “write off” (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, D, N or S) and/or endorsed as being “accident damaged” on their V5 document will not be licensed.

There is no data to display for this question

Proposed Policy Change

Proposed Policy Change

Vehicles that have been deemed to be an insurance “write off” (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, or S) and/or endorsed as being “accident damaged” on their V5 document will not be licensed.

There is no data to display for this question

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Question responses: 42 (97.67%)

Do you agree with the above policy change?

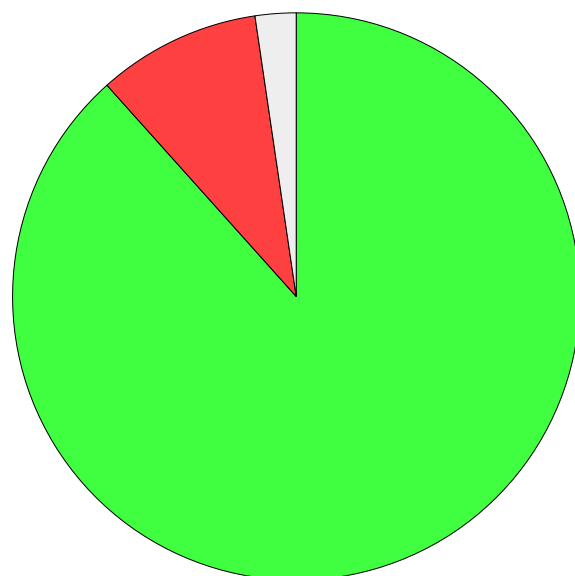


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	88.37%	90.48%	38
No	9.30%	9.52%	4
[No Response]	2.33%	--	1
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

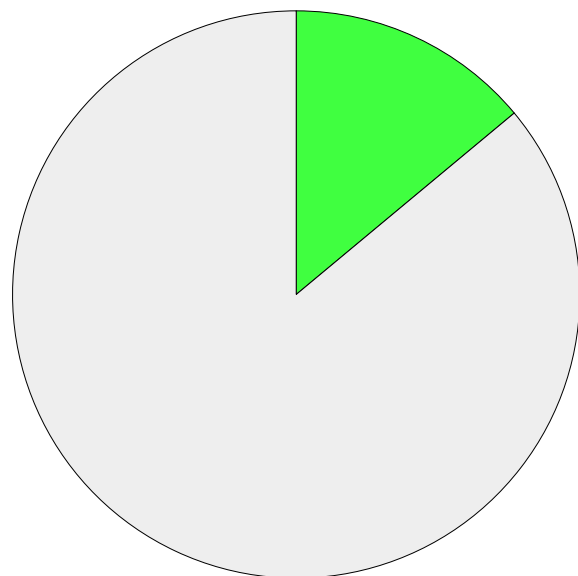
Table .2

Vehicles Specification Comments

Vehicles Specification Comments

Question responses: **6 (13.95%)**

Please use this space if you would like to comment further on this proposed policy change:



	% Total	% Answer	Count
■ [Responses]	13.95%	100.00%	6
■ [No Response]	86.05%	--	37
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Table .1

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
1				but you should allow cat n	17/07/19 18:18	0.1	Submitted	web
3				The damage to make it cat N must be disclosed. So extra checks can be	18/07/19 11:43	0.1	Submitted	web

Vehicles Specification Comments

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
				done in that area during the mot / taxi test				
4				Some vehicle get written off just not if accidents insurance company write cars off such as body damage paint strip or a dent on a quarter panel which is minor and no risk in any way to amend the car back on the road	18/07/19 12:24	0.1	Submitted	web
6				I do not agree as at Tees Valley Cabs we have already had the issue with STBC were accident damaged vehicles were removed from our licence in 2016 despite them continually passing compliance tests when non accident damage vehicles continually failed. We feel accident damage vehicles should be acceptable providing that there is an impeccable maintenance infrastructure. We have had three previous vehicle inspection operation, (29/07/17)(28/09/18)(30/05/19) on all occasions we were sent letters of acknowledgement for appreciation of the hard work we put in to exceptionally maintaining our vehicles and running our fleet. Ensuring that we not only maintain a good reputation for our business but also act as ambassadors for stockton council. your current policy states damaged	18/07/19 12:34	0.1	Submitted	web

Vehicles Specification Comments

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
				vehicles cannot be licensed but yet vehicles are being presented and are failing compliance tests that are not catogrised. It is stockton licensing policy once a vehicle is plated it should be exceptionally maintained however operators and propiators of other compainies are not complying but no action has been taken by yourselves. All our company vehicles are checked on a weekly basis which you are aware.				
14				Minor accedents should b considered	23/07/19 05:48	0.1	Submitted	web
16				this should include any private hire/ hackney from other areas who work in stockton.	02/08/19 07:46	0.1	Submitted	web

Table .3

Current Policy

The proprietor shall submit the vehicle for any further testing and/or examination as requested by the Council and shall be responsible for the production of any independent engineers reports considered necessary by the Council. Vehicles deemed to be an insurance “write-off” (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, D N or S) and/or have their V5 document endorsed as being ‘accident damaged’ will have their licence revoked.

There is no data to display for this question

Proposed Policy Change

Proposed Policy Change

The proprietor shall submit the vehicle for any further testing and/or examination as requested by the Council and shall be responsible for the production of any independent engineers reports considered necessary by the Council. Vehicles deemed to be an insurance "write-off" (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, or S) and/or have their V5 document endorsed as being 'accident damaged' will have their licence revoked.

There is no data to display for this question

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Question responses: 43 (100.00%)

Do you agree with the above policy change?

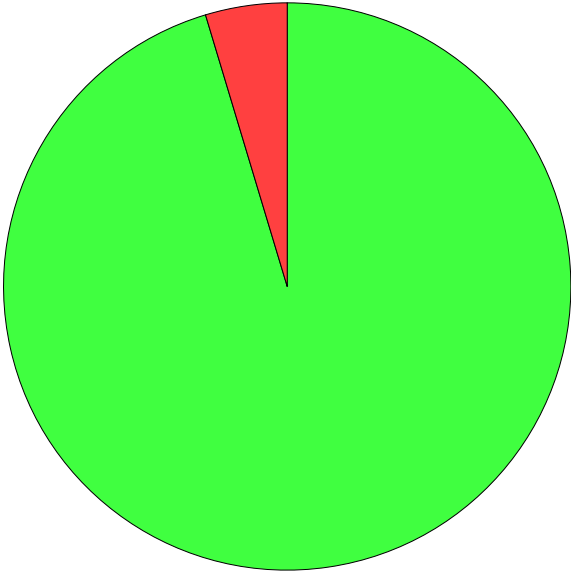


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	95.35%	95.35%	41
No	4.65%	4.65%	2
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Accident Notification Comments

Accident Notification Comments

Question responses: 1 (2.33%)

Please use this space if you would like to comment further on this proposed policy change:

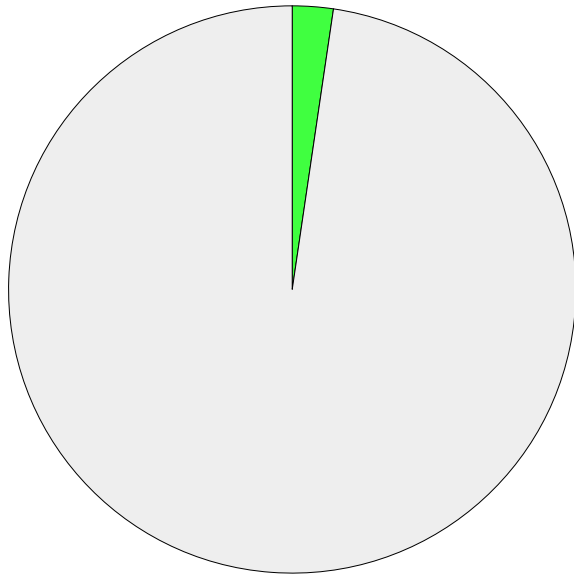


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
■ [Responses]	2.33%	100.00%	1
■ [No Response]	97.67%	--	42
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Accident Notification Comments

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
6				All category vehicles that are deemed as a write off are due to a economic calculations, insurers state that the car can be repaired and road worthy but chose not to due to financial reasons.	18/07/19 12:34	0.1	Submitted	web

Table .3

Current Policy

The windows (excluding the windscreen which must have a minimum light transmission of 75%) of any vehicle shall not have been treated so that less than 70% of light is transmitted through it, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission:

There is no data to display for this question

Proposed Policy Change

Therefore, the Council's specification relating to the use of tinted windows in licensed vehicles is as follows: -

There is no data to display for this question

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Question responses: **43 (100.00%)**

Do you agree with the above policy change?

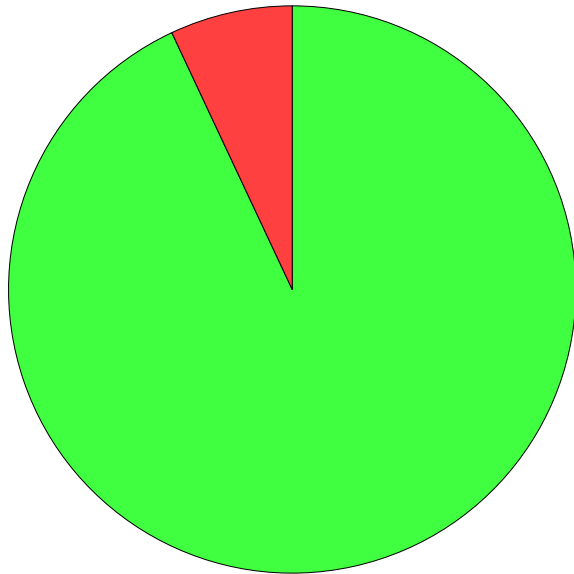


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
■ Yes	93.02%	93.02%	40
■ No	6.98%	6.98%	3
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Tinted Windows Comments

Question responses: 1 (2.33%)

Please use this space if you would like to comment further on this proposed policy change:

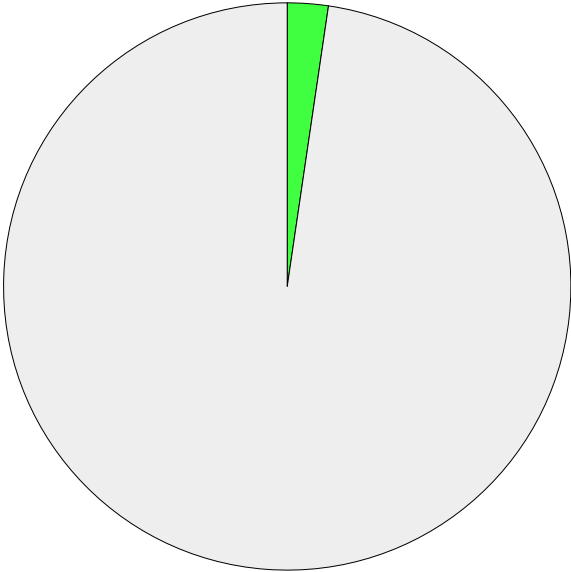


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	% Total	% Answer	Count
[Responses]	2.33%	100.00%	1
[No Response]	97.67%	--	42
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Tinted Windows Comments

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
14				Factory fitted tinted glass should be allowed as if a car is leagal to drive in the world should be legal to drive as taxi. Any alterations from factory specs should not be allowed as it costs great amount of money to replace windows	23/07/19 05:48	0.1	Submitted	web

Table .3

Report Settings Summary

Event	Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Review 2019
Total Responses	43
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Questions	All
Filter	<i>(none)</i>
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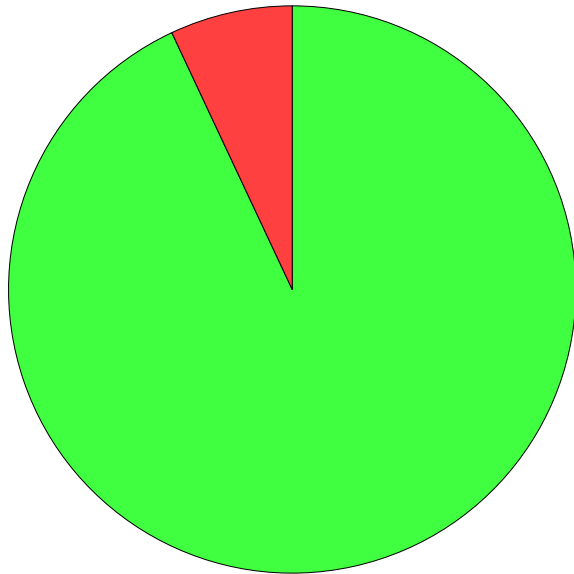


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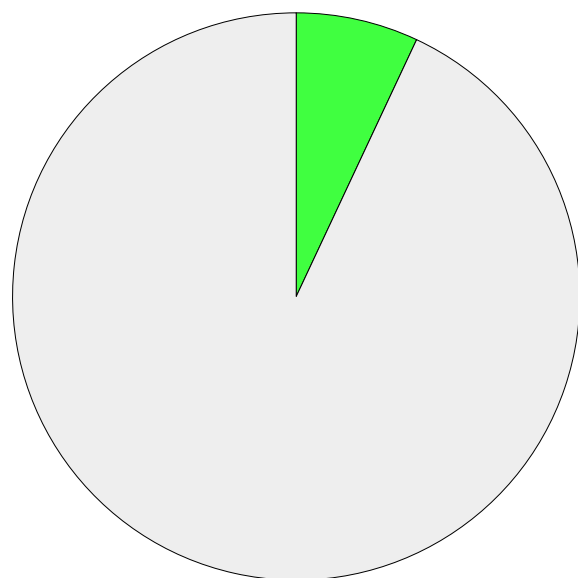
	% Total	% Answer	Count
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Driving Experience Comments

Question responses: **3 (6.98%)**

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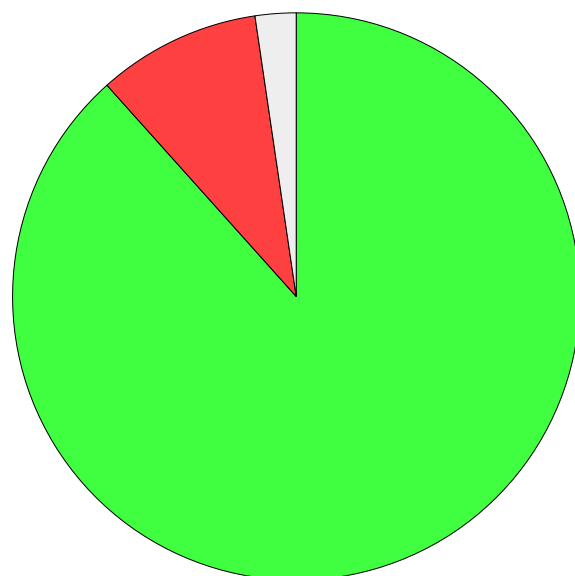


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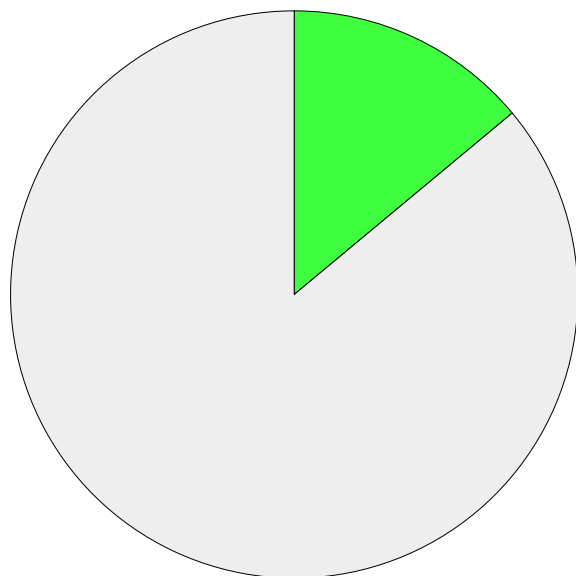
Table .2

Vehicles Specification Comments

Vehicles Specification Comments

Question responses: **6 (13.95%)**

Please use this space if you would like to comment further on this proposed policy change:



	% Total	% Answer	Count
■ [Responses]	13.95%	100.00%	6
■ [No Response]	86.05%	--	37
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

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Vehicles Specification Comments

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14				Minor accedents should b considered	23/07/19 05:48	0.1	Submitted	web
16				this should include any private hire/ hackney from other areas who work in stockton.	02/08/19 07:46	0.1	Submitted	web

Table .3

Current Policy

The proprietor shall submit the vehicle for any further testing and/or examination as requested by the Council and shall be responsible for the production of any independent engineers reports considered necessary by the Council. Vehicles deemed to be an insurance “write-off” (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, D N or S) and/or have their V5 document endorsed as being ‘accident damaged’ will have their licence revoked.

There is no data to display for this question

Proposed Policy Change

Proposed Policy Change

The proprietor shall submit the vehicle for any further testing and/or examination as requested by the Council and shall be responsible for the production of any independent engineers reports considered necessary by the Council. Vehicles deemed to be an insurance "write-off" (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, or S) and/or have their V5 document endorsed as being 'accident damaged' will have their licence revoked.

There is no data to display for this question

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Question responses: 43 (100.00%)

Do you agree with the above policy change?

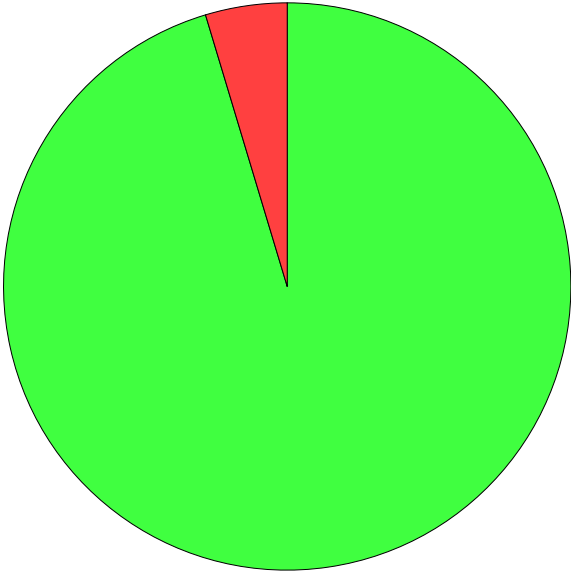


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
Yes	95.35%	95.35%	41
No	4.65%	4.65%	2
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Accident Notification Comments

Accident Notification Comments

Question responses: 1 (2.33%)

Please use this space if you would like to comment further on this proposed policy change:

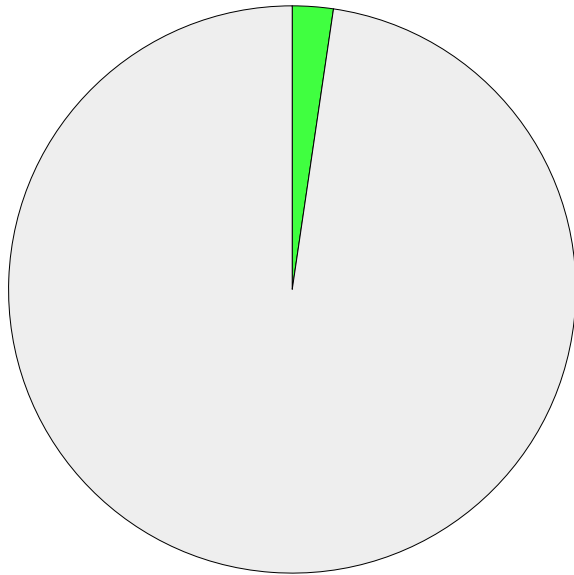


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
■ [Responses]	2.33%	100.00%	1
■ [No Response]	97.67%	--	42
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Accident Notification Comments

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
6				All category vehicles that are deemed as a write off are due to a economic calculations, insurers state that the car can be repaired and road worthy but chose not to due to financial reasons.	18/07/19 12:34	0.1	Submitted	web

Table .3

Current Policy

The windows (excluding the windscreen which must have a minimum light transmission of 75%) of any vehicle shall not have been treated so that less than 70% of light is transmitted through it, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission:

There is no data to display for this question

Proposed Policy Change

Therefore, the Council's specification relating to the use of tinted windows in licensed vehicles is as follows: -

There is no data to display for this question

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Do you agree with the above policy change?

Question responses: **43 (100.00%)**

Do you agree with the above policy change?

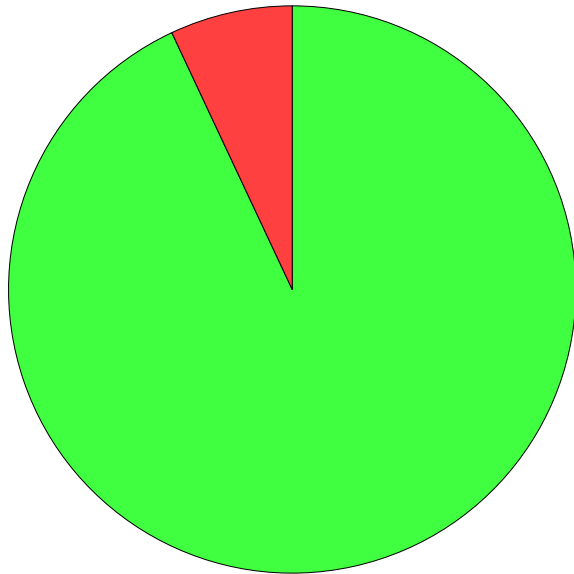


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
■ Yes	93.02%	93.02%	40
■ No	6.98%	6.98%	3
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Tinted Windows Comments

Question responses: 1 (2.33%)

Please use this space if you would like to comment further on this proposed policy change:

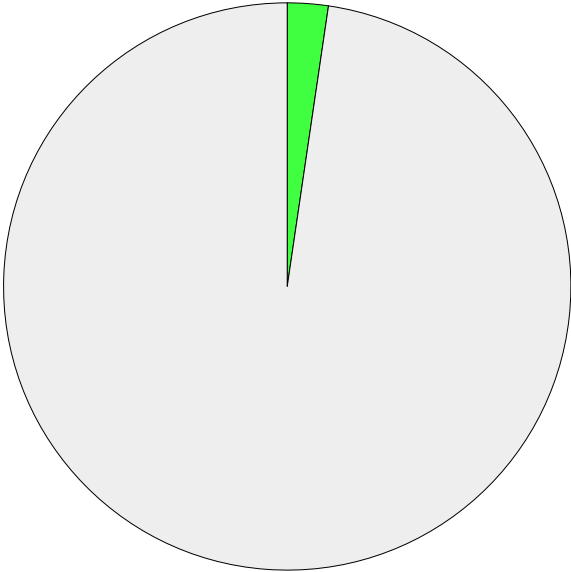


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
■ [Responses]	2.33%	100.00%	1
■ [No Response]	97.67%	--	42
Total	100.00%	100.00%	43

Table .2

Tinted Windows Comments

ID	Consultation Point	Consultee	Agent	Answer	Date	Version	Status	Type
14				Factory fitted tinted glass should be allowed as if a car is leagal to drive in the world should be legal to drive as taxi. Any alterations from factory specs should not be allowed as it costs great amount of money to replace windows	23/07/19 05:48	0.1	Submitted	web

Table .3

Tees Valley Policy comparisons – DVLA licence and Driving Experience

Stockton-On-Tees	A driver's licence will not be granted to anyone who has not held a full driving licence for a period of three years. Full driving licences issued by EEA states will also count towards this qualification requirement and equal recognition can now also be given to Northern Ireland driving licences. Pg. 24
Middlesbrough	A driver's licence cannot be granted to anyone who has not held a full driving licence for a period of at least twelve months. Only full driving licences issued in the UK, the European Community (EC) or one of the other countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) or from some designated countries that have exchange agreements with the UK, will count towards this qualification requirement. Equal recognition can now also be given to Northern Ireland driving licences. Further details can be found at www.dvla.gov.uk Pg. 33
Hartlepool	Licences are issued (or renewed) subject to proof of eligibility, which is: - a) Aged 21 years or older at the time the licence is granted, b) Appropriate driving licence, c) At least 12 months driving experience since driving licence was granted, Pg. 8
Redcar	An applicant for a hackney carriage or private hire driver licence must have held a full driving licence issued by the DVLA (or a full driving licence issued by an EEA state) for at least 12 months. Pg. 11
Darlington	An applicant for the grant of a hackney carriage or private hire driver licence must have held a full DVLA driving licence for a period of 12 months before an application for the grant of a driver's licence will be accepted. This is a legal requirement under Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Full driving licences issued by EEA states will also count towards this qualification requirement and equal recognition will also be given to Northern Ireland driving licences Pg. 5

Tees Valley Policy Comparisons – Insurance Categories

Stockton-on-Tees	Vehicles that have been deemed to be an insurance “write off” (i.e. in accident damage category A, B, C, D, N or S) and/or endorsed as being “accident damaged” on their V5 document will not be licensed. Pg10
Middlesbrough	In order to achieve and maintain a high quality of licensed vehicles, vehicles that have been deemed to be an insurance “write off” in accident damage category A and B will not be licensed. Vehicles that have been declared a category C, D, S or N “write off” may be licensed providing the applicant provides an appropriate Engineer’s report and body alignment JIG report, approved by the Council, verifying the quality and standards of repair. Pg. 16
Hartlepool	Vehicles that have at any time been declared a Category A or B insurance ‘write off’ and/or have their V5 document endorsed as being ‘accident damaged’ will not be licensed. If a licensed vehicle is involved in an accident which results in the vehicle being declared a Category A or B insurance write off then the licence will be revoked and no further application to licence the vehicle will be permitted. Pg55
Redcar	Vehicles that have been declared to be an insurance ‘write off’ in category A or B will not be licensed. Pg. 8
Darlington	Vehicles that have at any time been declared an ‘insurance write off’ (i.e. in category A, B, C, D) and/or have their V5 document endorsed as being ‘accident damaged’ will not be licensed. If a licensed vehicle is involved in an accident which results in the vehicle being declared an insurance write off then the licence will be revoked and the no further application to licence the vehicle will be permitted. Pg16

Tees Valley Policy Comparisons – Tinted Windows

<p>Stockton-on-Tees</p>	<p>The windows (excluding the windscreen which must have a minimum light transmission of 75%) of any vehicle shall not have been treated so that less than 70% of light is transmitted through it, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle is an executive hire or novelty hire vehicle or stretched limousine operating under an Exemption Notice or exceptional circumstances apply; and • The vehicle will not be engaged at all in any contract or provision of vehicle for the carriage of school children or based around the carriage of unaccompanied children/young persons (i.e. under age 18 years). The driver must not act as the accompanying adult; and • Approval has been given by the Council. <p>134. Existing licensed vehicles that do not meet this standard will be allowed 'grandfather rights' to be licensed until such time as the vehicle is changed or ownership of the vehicle is transferred, at which time this standard must be complied with. Pg 20</p>
<p>Middlesbrough</p>	<p>In the interests of public safety it is important that passengers carried in licensed vehicles are capable of being seen when viewed from outside the vehicle.</p> <p>Therefore, the Council's specification relating to the use of tinted windows in licensed vehicles is as follows: -</p> <p>a) The windscreen shall have a minimum light transmission of 75%</p> <p>b) All other front windows of the vehicle shall have a minimum of 70% light transmission,</p> <p>c) All rear windows of the vehicle shall have a minimum of 30% light transmission, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The vehicle is an executive hire or novelty hire vehicle or stretched limousine operating under an Exemption Notice or exceptional circumstances apply; and <input type="checkbox"/> The vehicle will not be engaged at all in any contract or provision of vehicle for the carriage of school children or based around the carriage of unaccompanied children/young persons (i.e. under age 18 years). The driver must not act as the accompanying adult; and <input type="checkbox"/> Approval has been given by the Council. <p>d) the Council will allow a 3% (of the minimum specified reading) error margin in line with the testing instruments manufacturers recommendation. For example therefore, a 3% error margin for a rear window reading equals 0.9% (rounded to 1%). This means that a reading of not less than 29% light transmission will be accepted for rear windows Pg 26.</p>
<p>Hartlepool</p>	

	<p>Hartlepool BC has a duty to protect children and young people from all forms abuse including, amongst other things, trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).</p> <p>As the licensing authority for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, the Council believes it is important that any children or young people using such vehicles can be safe and feel safe. To help ensure this, the Council considers that it is reasonable and proportionate to take steps to ensure that children and young people remain visible once they have entered a licensed vehicle – or to put it another way, that they do not become invisible.</p> <p>This can be partly achieved by ensuring that front and rear windows allow a minimum amount of light to pass through – thereby allowing front and rear passengers to be seen from outside the vehicle.</p> <p>The Council’s specification relating to the use of tinted windows in licensed vehicles is as follows: -</p> <p>a) The windscreen shall have a minimum light transmission of 75%</p> <p>b) All other front windows of the vehicle shall have a minimum of 70% light transmission, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission.</p> <p>c) All rear windows of the vehicle shall have a minimum of 30% light transmission, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission. Pg 51.</p>
<p>Redcar</p>	<p>The front windscreen allows at least 75% of light through and the front side windows allow at least 70% of light through². All other windows should allow at least 34% of light through Pg 8.</p>
<p>Darlington</p>	<p>The Council’s specification relating to the use of tinted windows in licensed vehicles is as follows:</p> <p>a) The windscreen shall have a minimum light transmission of 75%</p> <p>b) All other windows of any vehicle shall have a minimum of 70% light transmission, unless the following criteria can be met in which case there will be no minimum light transmission.</p> <p>251. The minimum light transmission criteria is relaxed in the following circumstances:</p> <p>a) The windscreen¹⁰ and front side windows¹¹ of any vehicle exempt from the criteria, when the vehicle is an executive hire or novelty hire vehicle or stretched limousine operating under an Exemption Notice, and</p> <p>b) The vehicle will not be engaged at all in any contract or provision of vehicle for the carriage of school children or based around the</p>

	<p>carriage of unaccompanied children/young persons (under age 18 years unless accompanied by an adult other than the driver). The driver must not act as the accompanying adult, and</p> <p>c) Written approval has been given by the Council. NB any exemption granted by the council does not remove the need for compliance with the relevant Construction and Use Regulations. Pg 24</p>
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