

We have received requests from the trade to review the Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy and review Hackney Carriage vehicle tariffs, and we want your views on the proposed changes.

The policy was last reviewed in 2022 following a full public consultation which included all members of the trade.

A full copy of our current policy can be found at: www.stockton.gov.uk/article/1514/Introduction

Report Settings Summary

Event	Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy and Tariff Consultation
Total Responses	105
Total Respondents	1
Questions	All
Filter	<i>(none)</i>
Pivot	<i>(none)</i>
Document Name	
Created on	2023-07-24 08:05:33
Created by	Emel Bagdatlioglu

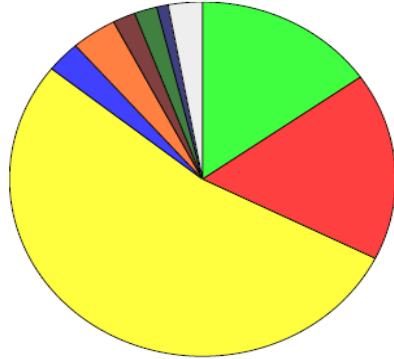
Table 4

Question 1

About you are you responding as a:

Question responses: 102 (97.14%)

About you are you responding as a:



	% Total	% Answer	Count
Licensed private hire driver	15.24%	15.69%	16
Licensed hackney carriage driver	17.14%	17.65%	18
Licensed combined driver	53.33%	54.90%	56
Licensing private hire operator	2.86%	2.94%	3
Licensed hackney carriage vehicle proprietor	3.81%	3.92%	4
Licensed private hire vehicle proprietor	1.90%	1.96%	2
Member of the public	1.90%	1.96%	2
Interested party please specify	0.95%	0.98%	1
Other please specify	0.00%	0.00%	0
[No Response]	2.86%	--	3
Total	100.00%	100.00%	105

Table .2

Table .1

If selected interested party or other, please specify

Question responses: 2 (1.90%)

If selected interested party or other, please specify

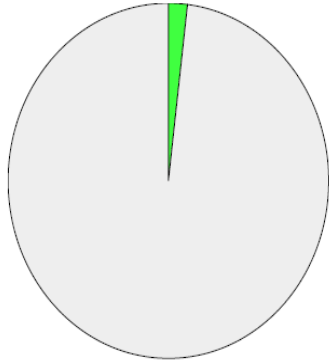


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
[Responses]	1.90%	100.00%	2
[No Response]	98.10%	--	103
Total	100.00%	100.00%	105

Table .2

Interested party please specify	Hackney driver need to have a taxi rank near to shopping area as our elderly customers use us as we are at the bottom the high street, also need big signs to specify were the ranks are
Interested party please specify	SBC Licensing

Question 2 - New and replacement Hackney Carriage Vehicle

Current Wording

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV)

WAV's that are currently licensed may be replaced with a like for like vehicle e.g. another WAV that complies with current policy.

Departure from policy in exceptional circumstances e.g medical grounds will be considered on a case by case basis.

The hackney carriage and private hire trade will continue to be encouraged to licence a proportion of their fleet as Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.

Proposed Wording

All new applications for hackney carriage vehicle licences are required to be wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Hackney carriage vehicles which are currently licensed may be replaced with a like for like vehicle e.g.

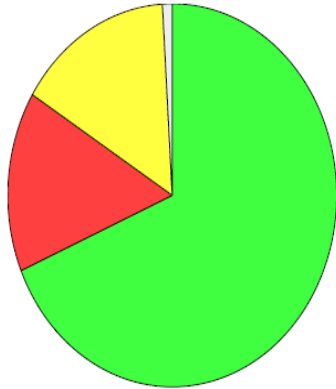
- WAVs maybe replaced with another WAV which complies with current Policy.
- Saloons (5 seats) may be replaced with another Saloon which complies with current Policy
- MPVs (more than 5 seats) may be replaced with another MPV which complies with current Policy

The private hire trade will continue to be encouraged to licence a proportion of their fleet as Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.

Do you..

Question responses: 104 (99.05%)

Do you:



	% Total	% Answer	Count
Agree with the proposed wording	68.57%	69.23%	72
Disagree with the proposed wording	15.24%	15.38%	16
Neither Agree or Disagree	15.24%	15.38%	16
[No Response]	0.95%	--	1
Total	100.00%	100.00%	105

Table .2

Table .1

	Agree with proposed wording	Disagree with proposed wording	Neither agree or disagree
Combined driver	44	7	5
Hackney carriage driver	13	3	2
Private hire driver	7	2	6

Tell us why

Question responses: 19 (18.10%)

Tell us why

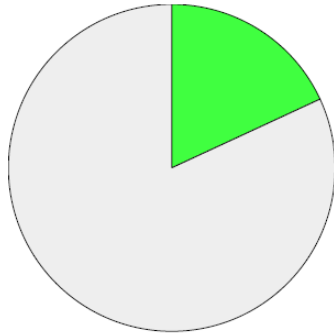


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
[Responses]	18.10%	100.00%	19
[No Response]	81.90%	--	86
Total	100.00%	100.00%	105

Table .2

About you are you responding as a:	Do you.. - Do you: WAV Wording	Tell us why
Licensed combined driver	Agree with the proposed wording	I agree with the proposed wording
Licensed combined driver	Agree with the proposed wording	My reason for saying I agree is because the ranks have been really quiet for years and now hackneys are a open issue the ranks are full of cars and no work so this way there won't be any more 4 seater hackneys going on and the existing hackney drivers can try and make a living.
Licensed combined driver	Agree with the proposed wording	My reason for saying I agree is because the ranks have been really quiet for years and now hackneys are a open issue the ranks are full of cars and no work so this way there won't be any more 4 seater hackneys going on and the existing hackney drivers can try and make a living.
Licensed combined driver	Agree with the proposed wording	My reason for saying I agree is because the ranks have been really quiet for years and now hackneys are a open issue the ranks are full of cars and no work so this way there won't be any more 4 seater hackneys going on and the existing hackney drivers can try and make a living.

Licensed combined driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	The council should not stop new applications for hackney carriage vehicle licences for saloon cars.Â Â
Licensed combined driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	I think given the circumstances around purchasing vehicles in the current climate, a for like for like is highly favorable throughout the trade. Id just like to add that there was no mention of allowing new Saloon HCV's onto the fleet in the previous consultation, it was very unclear in regards to this. Their was a mention of relaxing the rules around age and specification i.e allowing older hybrid models but I do not understand why the Council allowed so many new application for Saloon HCV's when we struggle to find rank space across the borough anyway.
Licensed combined driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	The case by case on medical grounds and also long standing drivers need considering, if financial problems stop them from affording another wav.
Licensed combined driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	all new applications for any HC vehicle should only be WAV vehicles from here on and a stop to all saloon HC applications as there is not enough rank spaces for vehicles to work in at peak times and certain ranks during the day time economy
Licensed combined driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	We already have enough hackneys on the ranks but not enough work
Licensed combined driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	The case by case on medical grounds and also long standing drivers need considering, if financial problems stop them from affording another wav.
Licensed hackney carriage driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	As the way it is financially and economically it is not viable to replace vehicles with new and like for like, it should go back to any age vehicle euro 5 that meets requirements
Licensed hackney carriage driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	There are too many hackney carriages on the road at the moment it is hard enough to make a living as it is

Licensed hackney carriage vehicle proprietor	Disagree with the proposed wording	MPV's should be banned or restricted to carrying 4 passengers. The rearmost seats do not have direct access for passengers. Saloon cars and WAV's must be maximum 5 years old when first licensed
Licensed hackney carriage vehicle proprietor	Agree with the proposed wording	I agree with the new proposed as it is more fairer on type of vehicles.
Licensed private hire driver	Neither Agree or Disagree	I don't understand the wording.
Licensed private hire driver	Disagree with the proposed wording	Cause not everybody has a lot of money to invest in wheelchair cars !
Licensing private hire operator	Disagree with the proposed wording	Basically your forcing WAVs onto the hackney's if they want to put a new vehicle on the road upon reading that. You wonder why many are going to Wolverhampton. Upon reading your wording . Would it not be best to encourage the purchase of a WAV by reducing the cost to licence it ? You will catch more flies with honey than you would with vinegar
Licensing private hire operator	Disagree with the proposed wording	There is a difference between the words encouraging more wheelchair access vehicles and are required to be. If you really wanted to encourage people to use wheelchair access vehicles and not force them , give them a cash incentive to do so.
Member of the public	Agree with the proposed wording	Will allow more WAV's on fleet.

Question 6

Please use this area to make any comments and make any further suggestions to the policy review

Question responses: 36 (34.29%)

Please use this area to make any comments and make any further suggestions to the policy review

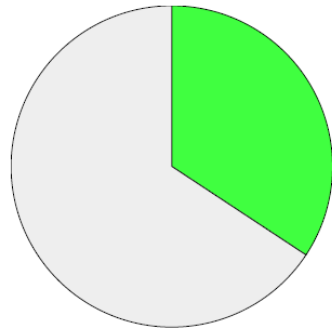


Table .1

	% Total	% Answer	Count
[Responses]	34.29%	100.00%	36
[No Response]	65.71%	--	69
Total	100.00%	100.00%	105

Table .2

About you are you responding as a:	Please use this area to make any comments and make any further suggestions to the policy review
Interested party please specify	Taking out the roof sign size specification Taking out fire extinguishers
Licensed combined driver	Hackney plates needs to stop as the current drivers are not making a living. The ranks are full of taxis but not many customers.
Licensed combined driver	I agree with the Tarrif proposal suggestion, also I would like for you guys to review allowing taxis to use bus lanes in the Stockton on tees area, as this will make the journey for driver and customer more quicker and will even save customer some costs taking the shorter routes if we are allowed through bus lanes. Thanks
Licensed combined driver	Hackney plates needs to stop as the current drivers are not making a living. The ranks are full of taxis but not many customers.
Licensed combined driver	Hackney plates needs to stop as the current drivers are not making a living. The ranks are full of taxis but not many customers.
Licensed combined driver	Please consider taxis to be allowed to use bus lanes in the area

Licensed combined driver	I agree with the Tarrif proposal suggestion, also I would like for you guys to review allowing taxis to use bus lanes in the Stockton on tees area, as this will make the journey for driver and customer more quicker and will even save customer some costs taking the shorter routes if we are allowed through bus lanes. Thanks
Licensed combined driver	We've been suffering for years, people are expecting price rises currently, let's use this time to make it fair and profitable to be a taxi driver again, otherwise you're going to see less people joining the profession.
Licensed combined driver	The council should not stop taking new applications for hackney carriage vehicle licences for saloon cars. Â Because once the council stops taking new applications for hackney carriage vehicles, Then the hackney plate vehicle owners will increase 2k to 3kÂ their hackney vehicle price just for the sake of the plate. It is very hard for the new licence holders to buy a hackney vehicle for work.Â
Licensed combined driver	I am for the new policy suggestion
Licensed combined driver	Please do some nationally statistics checks for hackney carriage tariff we are still very cheap taxi in the country While our expenses are same as all driver have in the country
Licensed combined driver	
Licensed combined driver	
Licensed combined driver	
Licensed combined driver	I think you need to look at neighboring councils and think about it carefully before proposing a change to the current HCV tariff.
Licensed combined driver	The trade is just surviving and customers will struggle to pay the higher price. This will lose trade over time.
Licensed combined driver	Currently the aforementioned proposals are submitted by a minority within the hcda which has only a third at best of overall members so does not represent the trade as a whole and the desire by the council to deal with this minority is baffling when they hold contact details for all licensed drivers this information should be shared via trade times rather than thru hcda contacts

Licensed combined driver	Stop all saloon hackney plates with immediate effect as there is no rank spaces available both daytime and night time economy No increase in any tariffs proposed as it will effect the HC trade with PH operator prices have been reduced to fall in to meet with petrol prices reduction Cost of living crisis will hit taxi trade hard as well as the interest rate increase and to increase any tariffs at this point could affect the trade severely Also the increase in tariffs we also affect the most vulnerable groups that rely on this trade to get home safely door to door these are the elderly - oap - disabled people and disability groups Trade members should also be allowed a trade representative to support them in any appointments or interviews with licensing, as questions can be misinterpreted or misleading and the driver may misunderstand the line of questioning and this could affect his badge and employment Point to consider it is hard for these drivers to have a legal representative with the costs on their earnings and this is why a trade representative is important for them - trust issues We have no quarrels with the interpreter also being present in the interview should the council seek they need one present at the time
Licensed combined driver	There isn't enough work for the current hackney drivers on the ranks. The free issue of hackneys plates should stop ASAP
Licensed combined driver	The trade is just surviving and customers will struggle to pay the higher price. This will lose trade over time.
Licensed combined driver	Currently the aforementioned proposals are submitted by a minority within the hcda which has only a third at best of overall members so does not represent the trade as a whole and the desire by the council to deal with this minority is baffling when they hold contact details for all licensed drivers this information should be shared via trade times rather than thru hcda contacts
Licensed combined driver	I am agreeing with proposed policies thanks
Licensed combined driver	Im agreeing with purpose
Licensed hackney carriage driver	We should encourage more wheelchair vehicles by giving them good schools runs its middlesbrough vehicles doing our jobs
Licensed hackney carriage driver	Please consider the future of the trade as any changes will be damaging
Licensed hackney carriage driver	Our fares are too cheap, the cost of fuel puts a big impact on our wages. And replacement vehicles are £20.000 upwards. You say you want more wheelchair access vehicles, hybrid or electric and at the cost of £30.000 - 50.000 its impossible on our low wages. Without helping with some kind of funding or loans its simply impossible. Same applies for replacement cars. Most drivers are still paying finance when the cars hit the age limit to be removed. Upper age limit should be removed on all cars. if The taxi test determine them fit for purpose then they should be allowed to remain. If nothing is changed then stockton on tees will remain covered with Wolverhampton plated cars as it is now with them having way less rules regarding age. Euro 5 or 6 should be used instead of an upper age. Graeme swinburne hcv 1471.

Licensed hackney carriage driver	I think all private hire firms should have a minimum set rate, minimum fare Â£4, this way hackneys on the ranks will not be worries too much about losing regular customers from the ranks to private hire firms
Licensed hackney carriage driver	Add 50p tariff 1 only. Stop issue more hackney plates not enough Ranks for taxis.
Licensed hackney carriage driver	The Taxi rank in Stockton high street should be increased to hold more hackney Cars. The taxi rank outside the Arc should be enforced so less able passengers can get home easier. should make the Taxi Tariffs simple for customers to understand. The fees for all aspects of licensing and renewals be reviewed comparable to other local authorities. Published accounts and breakdown on how each service costs.
Licensed private hire driver	I would like a policy to prioritise sitting of passengers in the back seats as a Health@Safety precaution. Many passengers like to sit in the front passenger seat, particularly the elderly passengers, who are precisely the problem. Elderly people like to talk and as they don't have all their front teeth, while they talk sat in the front passenger seat; they spray saliva through their teeth on the driver's left arm. This was particularly repugnant to tolerate in the times of COVID-19. And it also feels repugnant when picking up patients from the hospitals and they want to sit in the front.
Licensed private hire driver	I don't understand the WAV hackney policy. It seems like new applicants must have a WAV to be considered, but existing plate holders can replace like for like. This seems unfair to new applicants and also doesn't make any sense if the aim is to get morr WAVs. WAVs are typically more expensive to buy, more expensive to maintain, not as pleasant to ride in, may have compromised passenger and/or luggage space and have an extremely limited choice of vehicle. New applicants are therefore put at an immediate disadvantage to existing plate holders. It's not like WAV work is even more lucrative - it's less lucratve due to the time involved and more strenuous. For fairness and maximum inclusivity all hackneys should be made to be WAVs
Licensed private hire driver	Taxi operators and dispacers to Raisist against drivers Dispacers not licensed or under age
Licensed private hire driver	The wording needs to be straight forward and easy to understand .The problem sometimes is the wording is over complicated and difficult to understand .
Licensed private hire vehicle proprietor	I would suggest the Licensing Team to pay more attention to the cars used to transport passengers in terms of their safety, as well as their maintenance in good conditions. As we know together, there are vehicles do not meet these conditions but continue to run on the streets, even endangering the safety of passengers and when it comes about a new model that needs to be licensed, the Council does not take into account all aspects.
Licensing private hire operator	You need to update the private hire licensing policy in relation to seat sizes of the rear seats. Which is more paramount safety of comfort ?

Licensing private hire operator	<p>The policy as a whole needs a complete review. The policy at present is old and archaic and needs to be updated to present times. I have a vehicle that is 5 STAR EURO ENCAP Rated for 5 people travelling within. Euro ENCAP is an independant, non profit, organisation which is widely recognised by the motor industry and road safety professionals as providing motorists with objective information on the crash safety of passenger cars. The 1-5 star rating helps consumers compare the safety potential of different models and is based on the assessment in four important areas, Adult Occupant Protection for the driver and the passengers, Child Occupant Protection, Vunerable Road User Protection and Safety Assist which evaluates driver assistance and occupant status (eg seat belt reminders and driver monitoring technologies. The Department of Transport considers that licensing authorities should take a pragmatic (dealing with things sensibly and realistically in a way that is based on practical rather than theoretical considerations). approach to licensing, taking account of the underlying objective of Licensing- SAFETY. Now thats the Department of Transport making the recommendation as a Best Practice Guidance For Licensing Authorities in England, EURO NCAP Speaks for itself in respect of safety. Every surrounding local council has already adopted to these best practices, apart from Stockton Borough Council. The vehicle is at present only licensed for 3 passengers when it has a 5 star Euro ENCAP Rating for 4 plus the driver. But because you have a old archaic policy that the rear seats must be 44cm for each passenger for comfort, all that the Department of Transport recommends, Euro NCAP 5 Star rating for safety for the passengers, cyclists and pedestrians and child occupant status. All seems to be very well ignored due to an old policy still in place. As i mentioned before the whole policy needs to be updated. Sean Dixon Infiniti Cars [REDACTED]</p>
Member of the public	Public struggling with high mortgages etc not the time to increase
	Need to have use off bus lanes,yu have increased the new taxis and we dont have any enough taxi space as u have increased the taxis in stockton on Tees
	No comment.