

**Response to Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles – Consultation on  
Draft Best Practice**

**Contact: Mark Kay, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager**

**Organisation: Wyre Forest District Council (Licensing Authority)**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Comment</b>
General comments on overall document	Addresses all of the main issues and was helpful
Vehicles	<p>A wide range of vehicles should be available but for Hackney Carriages vehicles should be purpose built or factory converted to provide the necessary levels of safety and accessibility.</p> <p>Private Hire vehicles can be saloon type.</p> <p>Livery is an important safety consideration.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Agree with the comment that ‘A disabled person should be able to hire a taxi on the spot with the minimum of delay or inconvenience’. For this reason all Hackney carriages should be wheelchair accessible.</p> <p>Private Hire vehicles can licence any type of car although operators should be encouraged to provide some accessible vehicles.</p>
Vehicle testing	<p>It should be up to the individual licensing authorities following consultation with the trade to determine the frequency of tests. Older vehicles would certainly require more frequent testing but it could be cumbersome if differing testing regimes applied to different ages of vehicles.</p> <p>It is agreed that for purpose built and factory conversions that age limits would be inappropriate. However for saloon type vehicles an age limit would be appropriate to maintain standards of safety and quality.</p>

Vehicle identification	It is important to be able to distinguish between Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles and this Council would propose a livery together with a sign on the vehicles of a specified type.
Environmental considerations	Agree
Stretched limousines	Agree broadly with the comments within the consultation paper
Quantity restriction	This authority has chosen a path of phased de-regulation of quantity restriction and agrees that there should be no restriction on numbers.
Taxi fares	Agree that fares should be reviewed at regular intervals and that the trade and general public be involved in the process.
Duration of drivers licence	Licences can be granted from 1-3 years and it should be up to the licensing authority after consultation with the trade to determine what is appropriate. This authority issues licences for a period of 2 years.
Criminal records check	Broadly agree with the comments.
Other Training	Agree with the comments that further training especially in areas such as customer care would be advantageous
Private Hire vehicle record keeping	Agree that records of each booking including name of the passenger, destination and name of driver and number of vehicle need to be kept.
Enforcement	Agree that well directed enforcement benefits both the public and the trade and whenever possible must be directed to those times of the day when most problems occur.
Flexible transport services	This authority would support the comments within the consultation.
Local transport plan	Agree

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