

29.6.06

5 Comberton Terrace
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 1QP

Office: 01562 66666
Accounts / Fax: 01562 823354

Regency Vehicle Hire

Mr. M. Kay,
Environmental Health and Licensing Officer,
Duke House,
Kidderminster.

Dear Mr Kay,

Please find enclosed proposals for July's licensing meeting which replace my previous proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Trevor Owen.

29th June, 2006.

Received By Hand
29.6.06

Regency Vehicle Hire

We currently operate a fleet of 60 hackney carriages, 32 of which are licensed to Regency Vehicle Hire. To comply with the new licence conditions would require an investment of £544,000 over a seven year period, compared to our original planned budget of £252,000

It does not seem reasonable that any business should be asked to increase its budget by over 100% with such little notice. To comply with the current legislation as it stands and within the proposed timescale would clearly not be possible.

Over 30% of our annual turnover (£400,000) is contract business for which we compete not only with taxi firms within this district, but also with firms from other local districts whose licensing conditions are far more lax than those of Wyre Forest. We feel therefore that the Council is unfairly restricting our ability to compete in the open market by attaching such severe conditions to both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

Unlike the Taxi Owners and Drivers Association, we were not consulted about the Deregulation Plan or the new licensing conditions prior to full Council meeting of 2005, with the exception of one unofficial meeting with the Councils chief executive who outlined the proposed new conditions and the deregulation plan but failed to mention that as opposed to previous licenses that were issued, the new conditions would also apply to existing members of the trade.

For the reasons above we would ask the Licensing committee to give a further twelve months extension to the revised hackney carriage licence conditions whilst negotiations are still ongoing. This would also give the Council time to study the Governments best practise guide for taxis, which may in any event have an influence on any decisions made.