



Alan Barwise,
Team Leader- Licensing,
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead,
York House,
Sheet Street,
Windsor,
Berkshire,
SL4 1DD.

24th November 2015

Dear Alan,

Proposed Changes to Private Hire Licensing Conditions

Further to your email outlining proposed changes to the above, the directors of Windsor Cars wish to make known their objections to the proposal as outlined in the following submission :

All of Windsor Cars' drivers have been consulted and their response has been unanimous. Should you wish to discuss anything further I would be more than happy to act as spokesman on their behalf, as you indicated may be the case at any future meeting.

Kind regards,

Brian Truman
Sales Director

Re Proposed Changes to Council's Licensing Decisions

1. Medicals for Drivers

It is now and always has been a requirement for a driver to inform the Council should they believe they have a medical problem which may affect their ability to drive a private hire vehicle. You appear to be plucking a figure, ie, 65 years of age, out of the air, which would indicate when a driver reaches this age he is no longer capable of fulfilling this requirement, which is totally wrong. I appreciate it is in the interests of all parties that a driver should be medically fit, but the hitherto requirements that a driver should inform the council of any disability should suffice. Therefore, we reject such a proposal.

2. Internal Identification Plates

These may be considered a requirement for Hackneys picking up total strangers from the street ! Windsor Cars Ltd has based its business largely on blue-chip companies, five and four star hotels, whose clients demand a certain amount of discretion, ie, dispensation from displaying council license plates. All bookings must be pre-booked either by telephone, Email, or our on-line facility, and our vehicles can already be identified by a Windsor Cars sticker in the windscreen, drivers who wear company logo ties, and carry the RBWM driver badge, and if required, a "call on arrival" system is utilised. Therefore, we strongly believe additional signage within the vehicle is not required nor practical.

3. Temporary Vehicle License

At the very time a driver may be subject to additional financial restraint through no fault of his own, we believe an increase of 50% in processing fees cannot be justified.

4. Road Knowledge Tests

These are applicable only to Hackneys. Therefore, we believe that a fare of £16.00 is more than adequate to ascertain that private hire drivers are aware of the council conditions and policies.

5. Annual Driver Checks

Yet more unwarranted inconvenience, expense, time and paperwork ! Other than the council, we fail to see who would gain by a yearly DVLA check and new badge, bearing what would probably be an un-changed picture of the driver, and again, would be at the expense of the driver.