

Hackney Carriage Livery

RBWM licenced hackney carriages (taxis) are currently required to be white with a purple bonnet and boot and a large RBWM coat of arms on the side. This livery makes the vehicles instantly identifiable as RBWM licenced vehicles

The RBWM Licensing Panel of 16 October 2023 agreed that consultation should be conducted with taxi users, taxi drivers and all other interested parties as to possible changes to this livery

The consultation can consider whether any changes should be linked to a move from fossil fuelled vehicles to electric/hybrid vehicles so that electric/hybrid vehicles can be identified

DBS Checks on Licenced Drivers

RBWM Licensing are looking to introduce six monthly checks on the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service - formerly known as the Criminal Records Office) records of all RBWM licenced hackney carriage and private hire drivers. This is a requirement of statutory standard (the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards) which the Council is obliged to implement unless there are compelling local reasons not to.

The RBWM Licensing Panel of 16 October 2023 agreed that consultation should be conducted with licenced drivers, operators all interested parties and residents to determine how this was best achieved.

The views of licenced drivers, operators all interested parties and residents are sought to see if there are any compelling reasons why these six monthly checks should not be introduced at RBWM

Please answer the following questions

Licenced Drivers

1. Are you a RBWM licenced hackney carriage or private hire driver? **YES / NO**

Hackney Carriage Livery

1. Were you aware that RBWM licenced hackney carriages (taxis) are required to be white with a purple bonnet and boot and a large RBWM coat of arms on the side (known as the vehicle livery)? **YES / NO**

2. What benefits, if any, do you think this livery provides?

3. What detriments, if any, do you think this livery causes?

4. Do you think that this livery (choose one option);
 - a. Should be kept as it is
 - b. Could be reduced in some way
 - c. Could be removed entirelyPlease give reasons for your answer

5. As and when RBWM licenced hackney carriages move from being fossil fuelled to being hybrid or electric vehicles (choose one option);
 - a. Should the livery be kept as it is now?
 - b. Could it be reduced in some way to demonstrate that the vehicle is hybrid or electric?
 - c. Could the livery be removed entirelyPlease give reasons for your answer

6. Do you have any other comments on the use of the livery on RBWM licenced hackney carriage vehicles?

DBS Checks on Licenced Drivers

1. Do you know of any compelling reasons why RBWM Licensing should not introduce six monthly checks on the DBS records (formerly known as the Criminal Records Office) of all RBWM licenced hackney carriage and private hire drivers? **YES / NO**

If you answered "YES", please give reasons for your answer

There are two options for the process by which RBWM Licensing can conduct six monthly check on each driver's DBS, as follows;

- a) RBWM Licensing uses the DBS's Multiple Status Check Facility to conduct six monthly checks, or
- b) Use is made of a "DBS Update Service Status Checks" facility provided by the third party

Option (a) will be a significant administrative burden for RBWM Licensing, particularly at the start, as there are approximately 1000 licenced drivers whose details would need to be inputted

Option (b) would be at a cost of £6 + VAT per driver, per year, which would have to be paid by either the individual drivers or by RBWM Licensing. This option would,

however, be far quicker, more efficient and cheaper in the long run for both drivers and RBWM Licensing

2. Do you have a view on which option should be chosen to carry out six monthly checks;

- a. RBWM Licensing uses the DBS's Multiple Status Check Facility to conduct six monthly checks **YES / NO**
- b. Use is made of a "DBS Update Service Status Checks" facility provided by the third party **YES / NO**

3. If you chose option (b), do you think this should be paid for by

- a. RBWM Licensing **YES / NO**
- b. Licenced hackney carriage and private hire drivers **YES / NO**