

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To permit a temporary change of policy in relation to medicals required by Taxi Drivers
Date of decision:	14 May 2020
Decision maker:	Director for Economy & Place
Authority for delegated decision:	This is an emergency decision taken with regard to Part 3 Section 7 para 3.7.9 of the constitution
Ward:	All Wards
Consultation:	Consultation with Officers, Local Government Association (LGA), Department for Transport, Cabinet Member - Housing, regulatory services, and community safety, Occupational Health and Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment & Waste
Decision made:	To temporarily change the current policy in relation to taxi driver's medicals by allowing them to submit a self-completed medical questionnaire, which will be reviewed by the Occupational Health Doctor, who will then risk assess their fitness to drive, and the period that the medical should remain valid
Reasons for decision:	<p>The decision has been taken due to the unprecedented threat to Public Health posed by the outbreak of COVID-19</p> <p>The current policy requires a taxi driver to obtain from their GP, a completed D4 Medical (same standard as for Bus and Lorry drivers). This is sent to our Occupational Health Doctor who decides if a driver is fit to drive a taxi and what period should pass prior to a further medical being required</p> <p>Due to the current crisis, it is proving impossible for drivers to obtain medicals from their GP's or private medical companies, who are not carrying out this function at the present time</p> <p>The decision is in line with the DfT decision (17th April 2020) concerning bus and lorries drivers</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	This will result in an additional financial cost to the driver as they will pay an interim fee for the self-declaration medical of £40. Once the full medical is completed they will pay the £40 again to have it assessed by the Occupational Health Doctor. This will be offset by the ability to be able to continue to drive is they are medically fit to do so
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	The other option would be for the policy to remain unchanged. If this was to happen, then drivers would have to be suspended, in line with current policy, due to having no current medical. This would result in them being unable to earn a living if they so desired, meaning they would suffer financial hardship
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed:
Name: Richard Ball
Director for Economy & Place

Date: 14 May 2020