

# AGENDA

## Regulatory Committee

Date: **Tuesday 7 September 2010**

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Time: **2.00 pm**

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Place: **The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road,  
Hereford**

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Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

**Pete Martens, Committee Manager Planning & Regulatory**

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please call Pete Martens, Committee Manager Planning & Regulatory on 01432 260248 or e-mail [pmartens@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:pmartens@herefordshire.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

# Agenda for the Meeting of the Regulatory Committee

## Membership

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Councillor JW Hope MBE</b>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Councillor PGH Cutter</b>
	<b>Councillor CM Bartrum</b>
	<b>Councillor SPA Daniels</b>
	<b>Councillor JHR Goodwin</b>
	<b>Councillor RC Hunt</b>
	<b>Councillor Brig P Jones CBE</b>
	<b>Councillor PJ McCaull</b>
	<b>Councillor GA Powell</b>
	<b>Councillor A Seldon</b>

## **GUIDANCE ON DECLARING PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AT MEETINGS**

The Council's Members' Code of Conduct requires Councillors to declare against an Agenda item(s) the nature of an interest and whether the interest is personal or prejudicial. Councillors have to decide first whether or not they have a personal interest in the matter under discussion. They will then have to decide whether that personal interest is also prejudicial.

A personal interest is an interest that affects the Councillor more than most other people in the area. People in the area include those who live, work or have property in the area of the Council. Councillors will also have a personal interest if their partner, relative or a close friend, or an organisation that they or the member works for, is affected more than other people in the area. If they do have a personal interest, they must declare it but can stay and take part and vote in the meeting.

Whether an interest is prejudicial is a matter of judgement for each Councillor. What Councillors have to do is ask themselves whether a member of the public – if he or she knew all the facts – would think that the Councillor's interest was so important that their decision would be affected by it. If a Councillor has a prejudicial interest then they must declare what that interest is. A Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest at a meeting may nevertheless be able to address that meeting, but only in circumstances where an ordinary member of the public would be also allowed to speak. In such circumstances, the Councillor concerned will have the same opportunity to address the meeting and on the same terms. However, a Councillor exercising their ability to speak in these circumstances must leave the meeting immediately after they have spoken.

## AGENDA

		Pages
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> To receive apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)</b> To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest by Members in respect of items on the Agenda.	
4.	<b>MINUTES</b> To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd August 2010.	1 - 4
5.	<b>EVENING VISIT TO TOWN CENTRE VENUES IN HEREFORD BY MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND POLICE</b> To receive the views of Members on their recent visit.	
6.	<b>PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS</b> (1) To note the attached procedural arrangements for the meeting.  (2) To note the attached licence conditions regarding the vehicle applications set out in Agenda items 7, 8 and 9.	5 - 26
7.	<b>APPLICATION TO LICENCE A VEHICLE OUTSIDE STANDARD CONDITION BY MR ISSAM BAIRK DAR</b> To decide whether to re-instate an expired vehicle licence plate outside the standard vehicle licence conditions.	27 - 34
8.	<b>APPLICATION TO LICENCE A VEHICLE OUTSIDE STANDARD CONDITION 5.2 (I) BY MR CHRISTOPHER RICHARDS</b> To decide whether to licence a vehicle outside the standards vehicle licence conditions.	35 - 40
9.	<b>APPLICATION TO LICENCE A VEHICLE OUTSIDE STANDARD CONDITION 5.2 (I) BY MR STEPHEN DAVID WILLIAMS</b> To decide whether to licence a vehicle outside the standards vehicle licence conditions.	41 - 46

### EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

**In the opinion of the Proper Officer, the following items will not be, or are likely**

not to be, open to the public and press at the time they are considered.

**RECOMMENDATION:** that under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act, as indicated below

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <p><b>10. DUAL (HACKNEY CARRIAGE &amp; PRIVATE HIRE) DRIVER'S LICENCE - MATTER REGARDING THE HOLDER OF A DUAL DRIVER'S LICENCE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976</b></p> <p>To determine a matter regarding the holder of a dual driver's licence.</p> | <p>47 - 54</p>  |
| <p><b>11. APPLICATION FOR DUAL (HACKNEY CARRIAGE &amp; PRIVATE HIRE) DRIVER'S LICENCE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976</b></p> <p>To determine an application for a dual driver's licence.</p>  | <p>55 - 66</p>  |
| <p><b>12. APPLICATION FOR DUAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE &amp; PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976</b></p> <p>To determine an application for a dual driver's licence.</p>  | <p>67 - 74</p>  |
| <p><b>13. APPLICATION FOR A DUAL (HACKNEY CARRIAGE &amp; PRIVATE HIRE) DRIVER'S LICENCE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976</b></p> <p>To determine an application for a dual driver's licence.</p>  | <p>75 - 82</p>  |
| <p><b>14. MATTER REGARDING THE HOLDER OF A DUAL (HACKNEY CARRIAGE &amp; PRIVATE HIRE) DRIVER'S LICENCE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976</b></p> <p>To determine a matter regarding the holder of a dual driver's licence.</p>                         | <p>83 - 102</p> |

## **The Public's Rights to Information and Attendance at Meetings**

### **YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO: -**

- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage).
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

### **Public Transport Links**

- Public transport access can be gained to Brockington via the service runs approximately every 20 minutes from the City bus station at the Tesco store in Bewell Street (next to the roundabout junction of Blueschool Street / Victoria Street / Edgar Street).
- The nearest bus stop to Brockington is located in Vineyard Road near to its junction with Old Eign Hill. The return journey can be made from the same bus stop.

## **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**BROCKINGTON, 35 HAFOD ROAD, HEREFORD.**

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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of Regulatory Committee held at The Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford on Tuesday 3 August 2010 at 2.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillor JW Hope MBE (Chairman)  
Councillor PGH Cutter (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: CM Bartrum, SPA Daniels, JHR Goodwin, RC Hunt,  
Brig P Jones CBE and A Seldon

**28. COUNCILLOR DJ BENJAMIN**

The Committee stood in silent tribute to the memory of the late Councillor DJ Benjamin.

**29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors PJ McCaull and GA Powell.

**30. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)**

There were no named substitutes present at the meeting.

**31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

**32. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**33. LICENCE FEES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

Principal Lawyer and the Licensing Officer presented a report regarding a request from the trade for a reduction in the licence fee for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. The Licensing Officer said that the Council had recently found a new supplier for the on-vehicle licence plates which were cheaper and also met the latest safety requirements which the brackets for the previous ones did not.

Mr J Jones the Chairman of the local taxi association welcomed the proposals and said that inflexibility with the fees for the previous plates had led to some proprietors paying for the brackets but not actually being supplied with them. The new proposals would overcome this. The Licensing Officer said that a reduction of the vehicle fee by £23 per application would equate to an annual reduction in annual income by some £8500 to a service already heavily subsidised by some £83,000. Mr Jones asked about the costs associated with the hackney carriage/private hire licensing arrangements. The Licensing Officer advised that when the licence fees had been increased at the meeting of the Committee held in June, the Licensing Services Manager had said that a comprehensive review would be carried out and that this was in the process of being undertaken.

Having considered the matter, the Committee agreed to the proposals.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

**the fee for each licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle be reduced by £23 with immediate effect.**

### **34. PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee noted the procedural arrangements for the following items to ensure that Officers and applicants received a fair hearing.

**RESOLVED: THAT under section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act**

### **35. DUAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

The Principal Lawyer and the Licensing Officer referred to agenda item No. 7 regarding the holder of a dual hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence which was granted by the committee at the meeting held on 1st July. She said that since that meeting, further information had come to light about an incident involving the licence holder and she provided the Committee with the details. The licence holder explained the course of events from his perspective which had led to him receiving a caution from the Police earlier this year. PC Mooney provided the Committee with details about the police investigation into the incident and said that it had been recorded on CCTV at the premises where it had occurred.

Having considered all of the facts put forward by the Licensing Officer, the Police and the licence holder, the Committee took the view that the incident was not of sufficient gravity to warrant a suspension or revocation of the licence and decided that the licence holder continued to be a fit and proper person under the meaning of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**that the licence holder be permitted to continue holding a dual hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence under the provisions of the Council's licensing conditions but that the matter would be subject to review should any further incidents arise that no longer made him a fit and proper person.**

### **36. DUAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

The Principal Lawyer and the Licensing Officer referred to agenda item No. 8 in respect of an application for a dual hackney carriage/private hire licence. The applicant provided the Committee with details of the circumstances about a conviction she had received in 1984 and explained the reasons why she felt that she should be granted a licence. She felt that it was an isolated incident completely out of character and pointed out that she had not been involved in any other incidents since that time.

Members noted that the applicant had declared her previous conviction and that a considerable period of time had passed since the offence had taken place.

Having considered all of the facts put forward by the Licensing Officer and the applicant, the Committee decided that the applicant was a fit and proper person under the meaning of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and that her application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence should be granted.



**RESOLVED:**

- (a) **that the application for a dual hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence be granted; and**
- (b) **the applicant's version of events put before the Committee should, where at all possible, be substantiated by officers and brought back to the Committee's attention if it was found not to be correct.**

**37. DUAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

The Principal Lawyer and the Licensing Officer referred to agenda item No. 9 regarding an application for a dual hackney carriage/private hire licence. The applicant and his representative provided the Committee with details of the circumstances regarding his previous convictions. They felt that sufficient time had elapsed since the convictions with no other problems arising and gave a full explanation of all the events that had given rise to them.

Members noted that the applicant had declared all of his previous convictions but did not feel that sufficient time had elapsed since they had been imposed. The Committee also considered that because of their driving related nature, their relatively recent proximity and very serious nature, they were a significant factor which had to be considered in accordance with ministerial guidelines.

Having considered all of the facts put forward by the Licensing Officer, the applicant and his representative, the Committee decided that the applicant was not a fit and proper person under the meaning of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and that his application for a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver's licence should be refused. The Committee did however state that it would be prepared to consider any fresh application made after January 2012.

**RESOLVED:**

**that the application for a dual hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence be refused.**

The meeting ended at 3.20 pm

**CHAIRMAN**



**REGULATORY COMMITTEE**  
**LICENSING APPEAL PROCEDURE**

1. Introduction by Legal Advisor to the Committee.
2. Licensing Officer outlines the case.
3. Applicant (or his solicitor) sets out his case.
4. Questions asked by the Committee or Licensing Officer or Applicant.
5. Applicant (or his solicitor) asked if he would like to make further comment or representation, or if he requires time to comment or investigate (if so, Chairman defers application).
6. In dealing with each application, the applicant (and any representative) should also withdraw should be asked to withdraw when they have finished their presentation. All officers, other than the Legal Adviser to the Committee, should also withdraw. It would be preferable for the applicant and officers to await the decision at different locations.
7. If either the applicant or the officer are needed to furnish additional information, they should all be invited back before the Committee. When the additional information has been furnished, they should all be asked to leave again.
8. The Committee can then reach a decision in the usual way, but in the absence of parties.
9. The applicant and officers will then be invited to return. The Chairman will announce the decision. The Chairman should also say that the decision will be communicated in writing in due course, and that the applicant will be informed of any right of appeal (if the decision is one of refusal).
10. When the first applicant is finished, that applicant should leave. Deal with the second and subsequent applications in the same way.





HEREFORDSHIRE  
COUNCIL

**THE COUNTY OF HEREFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO  
PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE**

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**Appendix 1: TESTING STANDARD – MECHANICAL AND STRUCTURAL**

**Appendix 2: TESTING STANDARD – APPEARANCE / SAFETY / COMFORT / COMPLIANCE WITH LICENCE CONDITIONS**



## **CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE**

Herefordshire Council licenses both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles under the provisions of Part 11 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 and the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847.

These conditions were approved by Herefordshire Council's Regulatory Committee on **9<sup>th</sup> February 2010**. They replace all previous conditions and will remain in place until such time as the Council approve any amendments or review the conditions.

**All applications received which fall outside the Licensing Authority's Conditions or Policy (including late renewal applications) will be referred to Regulatory Committee (or an equivalent panel) for determination and this will incur additional costs to be paid by the applicant.**

Note: although the fee must be paid before committee, the committee has the ability to waiver the fee if appropriate after the hearing

*(Herefordshire Council will use government guidance and Herefordshire Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to base its decisions upon)*

### **Section 1: LICENSING OF VEHICLES - GENERAL**

- 1.1 The conditions shown below apply to all applications for new hackney/private hire plates and for all renewal applications.
- 1.2 Any vehicle to be licensed must have Category M1 shown on the registration document unless meeting Condition 1.3 or 1.4.
- 1.3 A vehicle of Category M2 (as shown on the registration document) may be licensed providing that the vehicle has passed an enhanced VOSA Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) test and the applicant has provided a written self-declaration that no changes have taken place to that vehicle since the SVA test was passed.
- 1.4 A vehicle of Category N1 will be considered if it complies with 1.5 below.
- 1.5 Vehicles which have been manufactured or adapted by a manufacturer or installer approved by Herefordshire Council can be licensed, provided that supporting documentation has been supplied to prove this, as well as a written self-declaration declaring that the vehicle has not been altered since its initial manufacture or adaptation.
- 1.6 Where a vehicle is not manufactured by an approved manufacturer, an enhanced VOSA Single Vehicle Approval Pass Certificate must be provided which includes

category P for non-wheelchair access vehicles and categories P and D if the vehicle is wheelchair accessible. A written self-declaration shall also be provided, declaring that the vehicle has not been altered since initial manufacture/conversion.

- 1.7 All vehicles must meet the criteria as laid out in Section 4.
- 1.8 New/replacement vehicles shall not be permitted if they were registered prior to the year 2000.
- 1.9 The licence shall not be transferred until the plate reaches five years of age.
- 1.10 All vehicles over six and twelve years of age shall be subjected to additional tests in accordance with the provisions set out in section 20.
- 1.11 A wheelchair access vehicle cannot at any time be replaced for a non-wheelchair access vehicle, unless the first licence for that plate was issued for a non-wheelchair access vehicle before 2002.
- 1.12 A non-wheelchair access vehicle may be replaced with any vehicle which complies with the requirements contained in Section 4.
- 1.13 No vehicle will be licensed to carry more than 8 passengers in total.

## **Section 2 - NEW HACKNEY VEHICLE LICENCE**

- 2.1 The vehicle to be licensed shall be a wheelchair accessible vehicle and shall be so constructed or adapted to carry disabled persons whilst remaining in their wheelchair.
- 2.2 The vehicle, when initially submitted for licensing, shall not be more than five years old. The age of the vehicle shall be determined by the date of its first registration, as shown on the registration document. The condition at section 2.1 shall remain attached to the licence for each subsequent renewal or transfer.
- 2.3 The licence shall not be transferred to another vehicle until the plate reaches five years of age and then only to another wheelchair accessible vehicle.
- 2.4 The vehicle can be transferred if the vehicle is written off or it is on a temporary transfer basis following breakdown or damage, in which case it shall be replaced in accordance with section 15.

## **Section 3 - NEW PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE**

- 3.1 For a new Private Hire Licence application, the vehicle to be licensed shall not be more than:
  - i. 5 years old for a wheelchair accessible vehicle that conforms to section 6 or
  - ii. Two years old for any other type of vehicle.



The age of the vehicle shall be determined by the date of first registration on the registration document. The vehicle must comply with the vehicle specifications contained in section 4.

- 3.2 If the vehicle is wheelchair accessible it shall be so constructed or adapted so that it can carry disabled persons whilst remaining in their wheelchair and comply with section 6.
- 3.3 The licence cannot be transferred to another vehicle until the plate reaches five years of age. It can, however, be transferred if the vehicle is written off or it is on a temporary transfer basis following breakdown or damage, in which case it shall be replaced in accordance with section 15.

#### **Section 4 - VEHICLE SPECIFICATION**

- 4.1 The vehicle to be licensed shall, according to the manufacture's specification, have or be:
  - a) Right hand drive.
  - b) All body panels to be of the same colour.
  - c) A capacity for a minimum of four seated passengers and a maximum of eight.
  - d) A minimum of four doors
  - e) Either a separate luggage compartment or have a fixed screen (of sufficiently sturdy construction to protect passengers from injury from items in the luggage compartment) between the rear seat and the luggage compartment, which shall be kept in position at all times. People carriers and multi purpose vehicles (MPVs) shall have a means of securing luggage whilst transported in the vehicle.
  - f) A serviceable spare tyre, or run flat type tyre, jacking equipment and wheel brace.
  - g) Road wheels with tyre load ratings set at the manufacturer's recommendations. The use of remoulds will not be permitted.
  - h) A permanent roof which is watertight. Sunroofs are only allowed if fitted as new by the vehicle manufacturer.
  - i) Equipped with fully functional nearside and offside exterior rear view mirrors.
  - j) All windows/doors opening in accordance with the original vehicle specification or for legal conversions in accordance with a suitable compliance test.
  - k) A rear seat with at least 41 cm seating space per passenger.
  - l) A suitable boot able to carry passenger luggage in all saloons and estate vehicles. This must be capable of carrying three suitcases of size 70 x 46 x 32 cm.
  - m) No bull bars or similar attached.
  - n) The clear height for the top of the doorway not less than 1.2 metres.
  - o) Unobstructed access to all emergency doors or exits. (Seats must be located to facilitate this).

#### **Section 5 - MINI BUSES & MPVs**

- 5.1 These are in addition to all other conditions and apply to mini buses and MPVs that are licensed as private hire vehicles and taxis.
- 5.2 All doors must be capable of being opened from the inside.

- i. The vehicle must have at least two doors to the rear of the driver for the exclusive unobstructed use of passengers.
- ii. All doors must show the method of operation of door lock operating levers, i.e. they shall depict "Pull" or "Push" with directional arrows in 5cm letters.
- iii. All emergency doors must be clearly identifiable to passengers and shall be clearly marked "Emergency Exit" in 5cm letters.

5.3 All steps at entrances and exits shall be illuminated or have clearly visible markings at floor level.

## **Section 6 - WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES**

- 6.1 These are in addition to all other conditions and apply to wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- 6.2 Restraints for the wheel chair and occupant must be independent of each other. Anchorages must also be provided for the safe stowage of a wheelchair (whether folded or otherwise) when not in use if carried within the passenger compartment. All anchorages and restraints shall be so designed that they do not cause any danger to other passengers.
- 6.3 The door used for disabled access shall be so constructed as to permit an unrestricted opening across the width of the doorway of at least 75cm. If the door is not of the sliding type the minimum angle of the door for wheelchair access when opened must be 90 degrees (i.e. perpendicular to the vehicle).
- 6.4 Grab handles shall be placed at door entrances to assist the elderly and disabled.
- 6.5 The top of the tread for any disabled person entrance shall be at floor level of the passenger compartment and shall not exceed 38cm above ground level when the vehicle is unladen. The outer edge of the floor at each entrance shall be fitted with non-slip treads.
- 6.6 The vertical distance between the highest part of the floor and roof in the passenger compartment shall not be less than 1.3m.
- 6.7 A ramp or ramps for the loading of a wheelchair and occupant shall be available at all times (other than where there is a mechanical tail lift fitted). An adequate locking device shall be fitted to ensure that the ramp/ramps do not slip or tilt when in use. Provision shall be made for the ramps to be stowed safely when not in use.
- 6.8 All vehicles fitted with a mechanical tail lift shall supply a tail lift safety certificate to the Council annually. This shall be supplied to the Licensing Section upon renewal of the vehicle licence.
- 6.9 Wheelchair accessible hackney carriages shall be capable of being used as such immediately and without modification.
- 6.10 By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 no wheelchair accessible vehicle shall be operated for hire unless that driver has passed a Herefordshire Council approved training scheme

covering disability awareness and the competent use of wheelchair facilities in licensed vehicles.

Note: Herefordshire Council is looking to deliver training for this at cost price and will advertise to the trade accordingly.

- 6.11 In the case of a Private Hire Vehicle fitted with wheelchair facilities, the vehicle can be adapted and the wheelchair provision not counted as a permanent seat. However, the wheelchair facilities shall be maintained for use when required through a pre-booking.

### **Section 7 - LPG SAFETY CHECK**

- 7.1 LPG installations shall comply with the LPG Gas Association's code of practice 2. A valid certificate confirming its compliance shall be given to the Licensing Section for photocopying when the installation is new.
- 7.2 No licence shall be renewed until a valid certificate is produced to the Council confirming that a safety check has taken place and that the vehicle is safe. This shall be provided annually.

### **Section 8 - SEAT BELTS**

- 8.1 Seat belts shall be fitted to all seats in all licensed vehicles. They shall be readily accessible for use by all passengers and shall be maintained in a good condition and kept in a useable and safe state of repair at all times.

### **Section 9 - ALTERATIONS**

- 9.1 No alterations to any equipment, dimensions or other specifications shall be undertaken in a licensed vehicle without the prior consent of an Authorised Officer of the Licensing Section.
- 9.2 For the avoidance of doubt, alterations include both additions to and the removal of any existing equipment in, or on, the Licensed Vehicles.

### **Section 10 - SIGNS**

- 10.1 The Licensed Vehicle shall be of such a design or appearance or bare such distinguishing marks as the Council may require, clearly identifying it as a Licensed Vehicle. The under-mentioned signs shall be applicable in respect of this condition.
- a) All licensed vehicles (except purpose built Hackney Carriages with a built in sign and Private Hire Vehicles) are to have roof signs with "Herefordshire Council" above and "Licensed Hackney Carriage" below the word "Taxi" on both the front and rear. The sign shall be green in colour as specified by the Council and shall be a minimum of 60cm in width. The rear of the sign shall be red in colour and may show a fleet number, not more than 7.5cm in diameter, in the top right hand of the sign. No other markings shall be permitted on the roof signs. The licence holder and driver of the taxi shall

maintain the sign in efficient working order at all times. The sign shall be capable of being so operated that at night it indicates clearly and conveniently to persons outside the carriage whether or not the vehicle is available for hire.

- b) The roof sign shall be displayed on the front part of the roof.
- c) Both front doors of all Licensed Hackney Carriages shall display a sign incorporating Herefordshire Council's corporate logo together with the vehicle licence number, in the following dimensions: the sign shall be a minimum of 60cm x 19cm wide with lettering measuring at least 6cm in height. The sign shall be the adhesive type and shall not be magnetic. However, magnetic signs may be permitted on a short term temporary basis and then only with the written authority of the Licensing Section. The sign shall be located on the top half of the door where it is clearly visible to the public.
- d) No other sign shall be permitted on either front door, unless it is part of a whole vehicle body wrap advert, which leaves space for the door signs.
- e) Private hire vehicles that wish to advertise their operator details on the vehicle shall also display two adhesive signs one on each front door of the vehicle which states "Private Hire and Advanced Booking Only". The lettering must measure at least 6cm in height. Magnetic signs may be used for temporary use vehicles.
- f) In addition to the Council's official plate, private hire vehicles may fix on any rear door of the vehicle a non-illuminated sign of a size not exceeding 60cm x 19cm, the lettering to be not more than 7.5 cm in height, and can be reflective. The sign may contain the following information advertising the company:-
  - i. Name of operator
  - ii. Telephone number of operator

10.2 Two or more notices shall be displayed within the vehicle, in a conspicuous location, indicating "NO SMOKING". Such notices shall be clearly visible to passengers and the lettering must be white on a red background. Alternatively the international "NO SMOKING" symbolic sign may be used.

10.3 Private hire vehicles may not use the words 'taxi' or 'cab' anywhere on the vehicle.

### **Section 11 - LICENCE PLATES AND BADGES**

11.1 For all licensed vehicles, the council licence plate shall be securely fixed to the rear of the vehicle by directly fixing it to the bodywork or bumper. It shall be clearly visible when looking at the rear of the vehicle. The council licence plate must not obscure the number plate or any obligatory lights on the vehicle. No council licence plate shall be fitted on any other area, including the rear window.

11.2 The licence plate shall remain the property of the Council and shall be returned to Herefordshire Council upon expiry, suspension or revocation. All licence plates shall be returned within 5 working days of the issue of the new plate and can be returned to any of the Info Centres within Herefordshire.

- 11.3 The loss of, damage to or illegibility of a plate or badge shall be reported to the Council as soon as the loss, damage, or illegibility becomes known and a duplicate shall be issued at the expense of the Licence Holder. The vehicle shall not be used for hire until the Plate or Badge has been replaced.
- 11.4 The holder of the licence is strictly prohibited from transferring or purporting to transfer any interest in the licensed vehicle. If at any time during the period of the vehicle licence the proprietor for any reason does not wish to retain the vehicle licence, the person must immediately surrender and return the vehicle licence and the licence plates to the Council. This condition shall not preclude the transfer of any interest in the licensed vehicle as part of the transfer/sale of the business to a new owner.
- 11.5 All renewal applications received after the date of expiry shall be treated as grants and not renewals and the appropriate conditions and fees shall apply.
- 11.6 However, the Licensing Officer has the authority to renew the plate in the 7 day period following expiry. The plate shall only be renewed until the sitting of the next Regulatory Committee (or equivalent panel) who will consider whether to continue to allow the plate renewal. At the time of drafting these conditions, the fee for the referral is £150 and is payable before the committee hearing. This fee may be revised by the Council from time to time.
- 11.7 Any application received prior to the expiry date of the existing licence shall be treated as a renewal. However no plate or badge shall be issued until such time as all the required documents have been received and accepted by Herefordshire Council's Licensing Section.

Note: In such cases there shall be no need to go in front of the Regulatory Committee.

## **Section 12 - ADVERTISING**

- 12.1 No advertisement shall be placed on any vehicle unless the content of the advertisement and the proposed location on the vehicle has been agreed by the Licensing Section and written authorisation given by them.
- 12.2 The advertisements will be assessed against the following criteria:
- Non sexual
  - Non discriminatory
  - Not to cause public offence
  - Not misleading
  - Location does not distract from council vehicle signs
  - Not to obscure vision of the driver

## **Section 13 - TAXIMETER/FARES**

- 13.1 Licensed vehicles equipped with a taximeter of approved design (compulsory for a hackney carriage but optional for private hire vehicle) must be submitted for testing before operating within Herefordshire Council's area and shall be subject to further tests as and when required by the Licensing Section.

- 13.2 A proprietor of a licensed vehicle shall not tamper with or permit any person, other than a properly authorised person or approved technician, to alter or adjust any taximeter with which the vehicle is provided, its fittings or with the seals affixed to the equipment.
- 13.3 The proprietor of a Hackney Carriage shall cause a statement of fares (as set by the Council) to be exhibited inside the carriage, in clearly distinguishable letters and figures.
- 13.4 The proprietor of a Hackney Carriage shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time while the carriage is plying or being used for hire.
- 13.5 The proprietor of a licensed vehicle shall deposit with the Licensing Section a copy of the statement of fares referred to above if the prices differ in any way from those that are in force at the time for Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed by the Authority.

#### **Section 14 - VEHICLE DAMAGE**

- 14.1 Any damage affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of persons carried therein shall be reported to the Licensing Section within 24 hours or, when the office is closed, within 24 hours of it re-opening. Where considered necessary, arrangements shall be made for the Licensing Section to inspect the vehicle. If following inspection and considered necessary by an Officer of the Council, written consent must be received before the vehicle can be used again. The vehicle must not be used other than for the purpose of taking it for repair or inspection if the vehicle is deemed unfit for use.

#### **Section 15 - ACCIDENTS AND TEMPORARY VEHICLE TRANSFER CONDITIONS**

- 15.1 Accidents involving personal injury to passengers shall be notified to the Police. The Licensing Section shall also be notified as soon as possible but in any case within 24 hours or, when the office is closed, within 24 hours of it re-opening.
- 15.2 Vehicles that have sustained major accident damage will be required to provide a satisfactory steering geometry and alignment report. This shall be in the form of a written or printed document from an approved VBRA vehicle repairer. In addition the vehicle shall be required to undergo a further compliance test.
- 15.3 Vehicles which replace a licensed vehicle on a temporary basis shall meet the requirements contained within the standard vehicle licence conditions
- 15.4 All licensed vehicles including wheelchair accessible are allowed to be temporarily substituted by a standard vehicle for use as a replacement, but only for a limited period to be agreed with the Licensing section. This replacement shall comply with section 1 and 4 of these conditions.

- 15.5 A temporary transfer will be valid for a 2 week maximum period unless authorised by the Licensing Section due to extenuating circumstances.
- 15.6 If the transfer takes place during normal office working hours, the licensing Section shall be notified before the transfer takes place. Transfers outside of normal office working hours shall be notified to the Licensing Section immediately after the office re-opens. In either case, no temporary transfer vehicle can be used without it having a licence plate attached to it.
- 15.7 Vehicles used as a temporary transfer vehicle must have a "Certificate of Readiness" which incorporates a certificate of compliance, inspection sheet. Valid insurance must be valid prior to the vehicle being used. Such vehicles shall comply with Section 4 of the standard licence conditions.

### **Section 16 - INSURANCE**

- 16.1 Before the licensed vehicle is used, such insurance or securities as are required under Part V1 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 shall be obtained in respect of the vehicle. The certificate for the policy of insurance shall also be produced to the Licensing Section for inspection. The policy must show that the vehicles are suitably insured for 'hire and reward' purposes.
- 16.2 On the expiry of the insurance, a cover note or 'Certificate of Insurance' renewing cover must be produced to the Licensing Section prior to or on the day of expiry of the previous certificate. Photocopies of the original can only be made by Council staff and faxed copies shall only be accepted if received from the Insurance Company/Broker direct.
- 16.3 The proprietor shall ensure that a copy of the Certificate of Insurance is kept in the vehicle at all times, and this shall include details of drivers authorised under the policy to drive the vehicle.
- 16.4 The licence holder shall notify the Council of any change of insurer or any change to the insurance particulars and shall provide full details to the Council of these alterations within two working days of such a change.

### **Section 17 - NOTIFICATIONS**

- 17.1 The proprietor of a licence shall produce details of drivers licensed by Herefordshire Council permitted to drive by him/her to the Licensing Section.
- 17.2 The proprietor shall notify the Council of any change in the list of drivers within seven days of the change.
- 17.3 The licence holder shall, within seven days, notify the Council in writing of any change of address and produce the vehicle licence to the Licensing Section so that the new address may be endorsed there.

### **Section 18 - SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

- 18.1 The vehicle shall be equipped with and carry at all times a British Safety Approved fire extinguisher, which is serviceable. It shall be suitable for use on vehicle fires and shall be located in a position for use by the driver. This must be permanently marked with the vehicle's Hackney Carriage or Private Hire licence number.
- 18.2 The vehicle shall be fitted with first aid equipment. The first aid kit must be carried in the vehicle in such a position as to be readily available for use and bear the plate number of the vehicle indelibly marked. It shall contain as a minimum the following items in Table 18.3 below as prescribed in the Public Service Vehicles (Condition of Fitness, Equipment, Use and Certification) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 1986. This equipment shall be permanently marked with the vehicle's Hackney Carriage or Private Hire licence number.

<b>Table 18.3</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
	Suitable container in which to carry first aid items. Permanently marked with the vehicle plate number	1
	Basic instruction card covering expired air respiration, external cardiac compression, treatment of shock, recovery position and treatment for bleeding control	1
	Triangular bandages	2
	Large sterile unmedicated dressing (not less than 15.0 cm x 20.0 cm)	3
	Individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings	24
	Safety pins	12
	Disposable gloves	1 pair
	Antiseptic wipes	10
	Disposable bandage (not less than 7.5 cm)	1
	Sterile eye pads with attachments	2
	Tuff-Kut scissors	1 pair

## **Section 19 - TRAILERS**

- 19.1 Written permission shall be obtained from the Licensing Section to use trailers.
- 19.2 Trailers shall only be used in connection with private hire bookings and shall not be used for plying for hire on the rank. Trailers shall comply with the following standards:



- i. Unbraked trailers shall be less than 750 KGs gross weight.
- ii. Trailers over 750kgs gross weight shall be braked, acting on at least two road wheels.
- iii. The towing vehicle must have a kerb weight of at least twice the gross weight of the trailer.
- iv. A suitable lid or other approved means of enclosure shall be fitted to secure the contents within the trailer whenever in use.
- v. The maximum permissible length of the trailer shall be 7 metres, including the drawbar and coupling.
- vi. The width of the trailer shall not be greater than the towing vehicle, subject to no trailer being wider than 2.3m.
- vii. The maximum length for braked twin axle trailers is 5.54m.
- viii. The trailer shall at all times comply with all Road Traffic legislation requirements, and in particular those laid down in the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.
- ix. The vehicle insurance shall reflect cover for towing a trailer.
- x. Trailers shall not be left unattended anywhere on the highway.
- xi. The speed restrictions applicable to trailers shall be observed at all times.
- xii. The registration number plate and the vehicle plate of the Private Hire Vehicle shall be attached to the rear of the trailer.
- xiii. The trailer shall be inspected annually and shall be considered to be satisfactory by the Council.

## **Section 20 - VEHICLE INSPECTION (see appendices 1 & 2)**

- 20.1 Prior to the issue or renewal of a licence, all vehicles and trailers shall be mechanically inspected at the Council's Testing Depot, as per appendices 1 and 2 attached. Frequency of testing will generally be dependent on the age of the vehicle (see table in condition 21.2 below). However, when the VOSA tester identifies that additional testing may be required due to the condition of the vehicle, then following consultation with the Licensing Officer, the frequency of these tests can be increased to three per year.
- 20.2 All vehicles shall pass the Council's compliance test before each renewal.

<b>AGE OF VEHICLE</b>	<b>TYPE OF VEHICLE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY OF TEST PER YEAR</b>
1-6	Car, minibus, people carriers (MPV), disabled access, stretched limousines	x 1
6-12	Car, minibus, people carriers (MPV), disabled access, stretched limousines	x 2
Over 12	Car, minibus, people carriers (MPV), disabled access, stretched limousines	x 3

- 20.3 The second test may be an MOT test and these tests shall be carried out 6 months apart. In the case where 3 tests are required per year, these must be carried out 4 months apart and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tests may be an MOT.
- 20.4 Should a vehicle fail to pass an inspection on a major failure, the vehicle inspector or authorised officer of the Council will notify the licensee that the licence has been suspended, if this is deemed necessary. The vehicle shall then be required to be resubmitted to the depot within seven calendar days and a re-test fee shall

be applicable. This seven-day limit shall also apply to any instruction issued for a vehicle to be presented for inspection. When the vehicle tester identifies to the driver that the vehicle has failed the required test for public or road safety reasons, then it shall not be used for hire or reward until the suspension is lifted.

- 20.5 An authorised officer, an officer nominated by the Council or any police constable shall have the power at all reasonable times to inspect and test any vehicle licensed by the Council for the purpose of ascertaining its fitness. All persons named above will have identification which can be produced at the time of inspection.

### **Section 21 - RADIOS**

- 21.1 All telephone facilities and radio equipment provided shall be maintained in a safe condition and any defects shall be repaired promptly. The licensed operator shall ensure that the licence issued by the Department of Trade and Industry for all radio equipment used is current and valid. All equipment shall only be used on the frequencies stipulated in the D.T.I licence and the licensed operator shall allow the Council access to inspect all equipment and D.T.I licenses.
- 21.2 All telephone facilities and radio equipment provided shall not interfere with any other radio or telecommunication equipment.
- 21.3 Where apparatus for the operation of a two-way radio system, data heads or GPS systems are fitted, no part of the apparatus shall be situated in a way which could cause accident or injury to a passenger, nor shall it be placed in the rear boot compartment if LPG tanks are situated in them.

### **Section 22 - GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- 22.1 The proprietor of a licensed vehicle shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in such a vehicle any greater number of persons than the number specified in the licence issued to that particular vehicle.
- 22.2 All vehicle proprietors shall maintain a reasonable standard of behaviour in their dealings with the general public, other licensed operators, proprietors, and drivers of licensed vehicles, as well as authorised officers of the Council.
- 22.3 The proprietor or driver of a licensed vehicle licensed by the Council shall furnish the authorised officers with such information relating to either the drivers or vehicles as is necessary to enable them to undertake their duties.
- 22.4 The proprietor or driver of a licensed vehicle licensed by the Council shall provide any reasonable assistance necessary for carrying out the functions of the appropriate legislation to an authorised officer and any person accompanying the authorised officer.
- 22.5 The authorised officer shall show their authorisation if required.

### **Section 23 - CCTV**

- 23.1 No recording CCTV equipment shall be fitted without the written consent of the Council. Where CCTV equipment is fitted, an approved sign shall be displayed in the vehicle warning customers that camera surveillance equipment may be in operation. Any image captured by the camera shall only be viewed by an authorised officer of the Council, by the Police, or by the dedicated System Operator. The dedicated system operator must have a valid CRB enhanced certificate and be notified in writing to the Council.

## **Section 24 - STRETCHED LIMOUSINES**

- 24.1 For stretched Limousines, conditions 24.2 to 24.8 below are inclusive and override conditions 2.1, 3.1, 4.1(a) and 4.1(c).
- 24.2 On being presented for licensing for the first time the vehicle shall have at least one of the following:
- (i) A UK Single Vehicle Approval Certificate
  - (ii) A European Whole Vehicle Approval Certificate
  - (iii) A UK Low Volume Type Approval Certificate
  - (iv) Limousine Declaration of Condition of Use
- 24.3 Stretched limousines are permitted to be left hand drive.
- 24.4 All operators shall be required to sign a declaration that the vehicle shall not carry more than 8 passengers (even if there are more than 8 passenger seats within) and that at the time of booking the vehicle, the restriction of carrying no more than 8 passengers shall be explained to the hirer.
- 24.5 Alcoholic drinks provided in the vehicle shall be under the terms of an appropriate licence relating to the sale or supply of alcohol.
- 24.6 Stretched limousine vehicles shall comply with the existing Conditions of Licence applicable to all licensed private hire vehicles, with the exception of those listed at paragraph 24.1 above.
- 24.7 The fee shall be the same as for private hire.
- 24.8 No licence issued to a stretched limousine shall be transferred to any other type of vehicle.

## **APPENDIX 1 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **LICENSED VEHICLE TESTING STANDARD – MECHANICAL AND STRUCTURAL**

Items for test in addition to MOT test.

The item numbers refer to the item codes on the test sheet.

29	Spare Tyre	Correct size for vehicle and conforms to legal requirements.
32	Seat Belts	All seat belts must conform to legal requirements and be operational
33	Wiring	Ensure that correct load fuses are being used. Ensure that visible wiring is not so corroded or chaffed that in the opinion of the tester a short circuit is likely to occur. That all junctions and installations are

		electrically sound.
34	Battery	Ensure that the battery mounting is not so corroded that the battery may break loose. Ensure that the battery is anchored securely. Ensure that the casing of the battery is sound and is not likely to allow acid to escape.
35	Starter Motor	Ensure starter motor is mounted securely
36	Engine Mountings	Mountings must be secure and not so corroded that they may be likely to fail.
37	Oil Leaks	Oil leaks must not create any type of hazard for the vehicle, pedestrians or other road users.
39	Drive Shaft	Universal joints must be serviceable and mountings secure. There must not be any undue 'play'.
40	Gearbox	Mountings must be secure and not so corroded as to be likely to fail. Gear selection must not be noisy.
41	Rear Axle	No oil leaks
43	Clutch Operation	Must operate satisfactorily and not 'judder', 'grab' or 'slip' outside normal limits.
44	Clutch Linkage	No signs of undue wear and are not likely to fail.
45	Clutch Hydraulics	System, if fitted, must not be leaking or the pipes and fittings so corroded that they may fail.
46	Fuel System	Inspected for security, corrosion and leaks.
50	Windscreen	Screen must be clear and there are no scratches, damage or obstructions, which will impede the view of the driver.
51	Windows	All windows must be clear of any obstructions or damage, which will in any way impede the view of the driver. No curtains must be placed over the windows and any blinds if installed must not be of a type, which will restrict all round vision. All windows must be capable of being operated in a satisfactory manner. All windows must be fitted with glass, which complies with the British Standard.
54	Vehicle Structure	The structure must be in a sound condition with no signs of corrosion or damage.
55	Speedometer	The speedometer shall work in a normal manner.
56	Odometer	The odometer shall work in a normal manner
57	Mirrors	All mirrors must be securely mounted and not cracked, broken or corroded so as to distort any view to the rear. Where a mirror is intended to be adjustable it must be capable of being adjusted.
58 59	Doors / Handles / Locks	All doors, including boot, must open and close easily from both inside and outside. Any door locking mechanism shall be easily operated by passengers. All doors and boots shall be secure when shut. All lock fittings shall be secure and complete. Grab handles where fitted must be secure and fit for the purpose.
60	Fascia / Interior Lights	The speedometer shall be correctly illuminated. All interior and passengers lights where fitted shall be secure and operate. All switches and fittings shall be secure and operate correctly. There shall be no exposed wires or large holes in the fascia.
61	Bumper	Front and rear bumpers must be fitted and securely mounted. They must not be damaged or corroded.
62	Road Test	The vehicle must be capable of manoeuvring safely and must handle correctly without any undue drift or pull etc
63	Registration Plates	Checked for condition, correct location and that they conform to legal requirements.
65	Other	Any item, defect or fault which in the opinion of the Licensing Officer or the mechanical tester which renders the vehicle in their opinion, to be unfit for use as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle will be noted as a fail.
66	First Aid Kit	The kit must comply with conditions 19.2 & 19.3
67	Fire extinguisher	Must comply with condition 19.1

## APPENDIX 2

### **HACKNEY CARRIAGES** **TESTING STANDARD – APPEARANCE / SAFETY / COMFORT / COMPLIANCE WITH** **LICENCE CONDITIONS**

Items considered in test: -

#### **1.0 External Bodywork**

The body work shall have no damage which materially affects the safety or appearance of the vehicle, shall not have signs of corrosion or have any sharp edges which may cause injury to passengers. The paintwork shall be clean, consistent and uniform over the whole vehicle. The paintwork shall be of a professional standard. All fitments shall be intact and free from any damage, stains or corrosion of any kind.

#### **2.0 Seats and Upholstery**

All seats, upholstery, trim and carpets must be clean and free from stains, holes, tears and damage of any form. There must be no sharp edges which would be likely to cause injury or damage. Seat coverings must be sound, intact, fitted snugly to seats and be clean. The interior seat springs shall be sound and not penetrating the fabric of the seat. There shall be no loose rugs, blankets, cushions or other articles on the passenger seats.

#### **3.0 Floor**

The floor must be sound and covered by fitted vehicle carpets. If furnished with rubber mats they must be in a clean and undamaged condition. Carpet off cuts are not acceptable as mats in the vehicle. Only one mat per seat is acceptable. The floor coverings must not be so worn as to cause danger to passengers.

#### **4.0 Doors**

All fittings shall be secure, undamaged and capable of being operated at all times by the passenger. The door linings shall be intact, clean and free from holes, tears, stains or any other damage.

#### **5.0 Head Lining**

The head lining shall be intact, clean and free from holes, tears, stains or any other damage.

#### **6.0 Boot**

The boot shall be kept clean and free of any stains, spills etc. Matting if fitted must be in one piece and be capable of being cleaned. The boot must be kept clear for the use of passenger's luggage apart from the spare wheel and jack (and excepting specialised fitments for first aid or other equipment etc).

#### **7.0 Fire Extinguishers**

A fire extinguisher (of the specified type) must be located in an accessible position and a notice displayed in the vehicle to identify its location. The fire extinguisher must be so secured and unobstructed that it will not create any danger or hazard for the driver or passengers. The extinguisher shall be clearly marked with the number of the licence when granted, in a manner acceptable to Officers of the Licensing Unit.

## **8.0 First Aid Kits**

First Aid kits shall be available to PSV standard. The kit shall be marked with the number of the licence when granted, in a manner acceptable to Officers of the Licensing Unit.

## **9.0 Taximeter**

The taximeter shall be checked and tested to ensure that the current tariffs set by Herefordshire Council are not exceeded. The taximeter may be sealed by the Inspecting Officer, as he/she considers necessary.

## **10.0 Fare Card**

The fare card must be clearly displayed in such a position as to be easily seen by passengers.

## **11.0 Internal Plate Sticker**

The internal plate sticker shall be displayed in such a position as to be easily seen by the passengers.

## **12.0 Exterior Plate**

The external identification plate issued by the Council shall be securely fixed to the vehicle in such a position as to be clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle, or, centrally on the rear of the vehicle, where a bracket behind the registration number plate is used.

## **13.0 Top Light**

The top light where fitted must be capable of being illuminated. The light must be securely mounted and installed so as not to cause any danger or hazard to the driver, passengers, the public or other road users.

## **14.0 Vehicle failure**

Where in the opinion of the Inspecting Officer the vehicle fails to reach the standard required by the Council for the issue of a hackney carriage licence, the applicant(s) or nominee will be informed of the defects or grounds on which the vehicle has failed to reach that standard. The applicant(s) or nominee will then be given the choice of: -

Removing the vehicle from the test garage for the defects to be rectified and returning the vehicle within 7 days and/or 200 miles (where the vehicle is normally kept within 10 miles of the testing station), or within 7 days and/or 300 miles (where the vehicle is normally kept more than 10 miles from the testing station). The applicant or nominee shall also pay the appropriate re-test fee if required.

If the vehicle is not returned for re-test within 7 days the applicant or his/her nominee shall inform the Licensing Unit of the reasons why and any proposed further actions to be taken in respect of the vehicle. Re-tests after 7 days may incur full application fees.

**Please note: - This list is not exhaustive and additional items may be included as deemed appropriate by Officers of the Licensing Unit.**

**Data Protection Act 1998**

This policy covers the treatment of personal data that Herefordshire Council may collect when you e-mail us, complete an application form, or when you complete and submit an online form on our web site.

When completing forms you may be asked for personal information such as name, address, postcode etc. It is only when you supply this type of information that you can be personally identified.

Herefordshire Council is registered with the Data Protection Act 1998 for the purpose of processing personal data in the performance of its legitimate business. Any information held by the Council will be processed in compliance with the principles set out in the Act.

Further information relating to the Data Protection Act 1998 can be sent to you on request.

If you have concerns about the processing of your personal data by the Council you may contact the Council's Data Protection Officer:

Data Protection Officer,  
County Secretary and Solicitor  
Herefordshire Council  
Brockington  
35 Hafod Road  
Hereford HR1 1SH





<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>REGULATORY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>7 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>APPLICATION TO LICENCE A VEHICLE OUTSIDE STANDARD CONDITION BY MR ISSAM BAIRKDAR</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (EHTS) PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** open

### **Wards Affected**

Countywide

### **Purpose**

To decide whether to re-instate an expired vehicle licence plate outside the standard vehicle licence conditions.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT the Regulatory Committee:**

**refuse this application as the plate expired in September 2008.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- Application made on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 to consider allowing an expired private hire plate to be re-licensed following its expiry in September 2008.

### **Alternative Options**

#### **1 The application be granted and the licence re-instated.**

**Advantages:** It would allow the vehicle proprietor to further increase his fleet of vehicles.

**Disadvantages:** It is not consistent with the standard licence conditions which the rest of the trade use to make their decisions.

**Reason why the Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 1:** Although this option has been considered it has not been recommended as it is considered to be an unfair

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Claire Berrow – Licensing Officer on (01432) 383542

advantage for this individual and it increases a fleet of vehicles which is thought by the trade to be over saturated already.

2 **To defer the decision in order to get more information**

The Committee could make a decision to defer the decision while more information is requested.

**Advantages:** Gives the opportunity for the applicant to produce further information in support of the application and allows him a fair hearing.

**Disadvantages:** This would delay the decision process and may mean that the livelihood of the applicant could be affected and further costs would be incurred in another committee hearing.

**Reason why the Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 2:** It is felt that any information required to reach a decision has been provided within the application.

3 **To reach some other decision**

**Advantages:** This leaves other solutions open to the Committee to resolve the application.

**Disadvantages:** There are no clear directions from the Assistant Director with respect to other options.

**Reason why the Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 3:** It is difficult to envisage what other decision could be reached.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- 4 This private hire plate expired in September 2008 and as the trade already believe that there are enough or even too many vehicles, the application should be refused. The applicant can apply for a new Private Hire Plate and adhere to the standard licence conditions which other trade members use to base their businesses decisions.

## Introduction and Background

- 5 Under the terms of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 local authorities may make reasonable conditions for the regulation of both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators. The standard licence conditions were approved in March 2010.

## Key Considerations

- 6 Whether or not to approve the application for re-instatement of an expired private hire plate.

## Community Impact

- 7 It is felt that any decision made will have very little or no impact on the community.

## Financial Implications

- 8 Not applicable

## Legal Implications

- 9 Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 there is a right of appeal to a Magistrates Court within 21 days of notification of the decision being served on the applicant.

## **Appendices**

10 Appendix 1 – Application for application outside standard conditions

## **Background Papers**

Background papers are available for inspection in the Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford 30 minutes before the start of the hearing.



**RECEIVED**  
 ELI VL 15 (new vehicle licence)  
 Outside standard licence conditions  
 19 AUG 2010  
**TAXI LICENSING UNIT**



Receipt No:  
 451226  
 Income Code  
 N80509474  
 Date: 19.08.10.

Application for grant/renewal of  
**VEHICLE LICENCE OUTSIDE STANDARD LICENCE CONDITIONS**

<b>PLEASE TICK</b>		<b>PLEASE TICK</b>	
<b>PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>GRANT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>RENEWAL</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOW DOES THE APPLICATION DEVIATE FROM STANDARD CONDITIONS</b>	Financial difficulties		

Surname (MR, MRS, MISS) BAIRKIDAR Maiden Name.....  
 All Forenames J. SSAM Previous Surnames/Aliases.....  
 Date of Birth 5-7-1955 Place of Birth DAMASCUS Sex M/F  
 Present address 3 THE PASTURES LOWER SWINGHAM  
HEREFORD Post Code HR2 6EU  
 Telephone Number: Business 01432 277777 Home 01432 268185  
 Mobile 07966150156

**PREVIOUS ADDRESSES IN LAST 12 MONTHS IF APPLICATION IS FOR RENEWAL**  
AS ABOVE

**GIVE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ANY CHANGE OF EMPLOYER, DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS IF APPLICATION IS FOR RENEWAL**  
 .....

**Name and address of proprietor of the vehicle** .....  
AS ABOVE

(Where applicant is partnership, limited company or other incorporated body)  
 Name of partnership, company or other incorporated body.  
 .....

**Address of Registered Office**  
 .....

**Address from which business will be conducted.**  
 .....

ELI VL 15 (new vehicle licence)  
Outside standard licence conditions

(To be completed in respect of each Director and/or Partner using a separate sheet as necessary)

Surname..... Forename(s).....

Address.....

Date of Birth..... Driver's Badge No.....

**PARTICULARS OF VEHICLE**

1. NAME ON REGISTRATION DOCUMENT

2. MAKE PEUGEOT

8. REGISTRATION NO. X161BLE

3. MODEL 806

9. PLATE NO. P 213

4. TYPE OF BODY M.P.V

10. ENGINE CAPACITY 1998CC

5. COLOUR(S) SILVER

11. FUEL (PETROL/DIESEL/LPG)

6. NO. OF SEATS (EXC DRIVER) 7

12. CHASSIS/BODY NO.

7. DATE OF 1<sup>ST</sup> REGISTRATION 15-9-2000

13. ENGINE NO.

**ANY ALTERATIONS TO VEHICLE IN PAST 12 MONTHS IF APPLICATION IS FOR RENEWAL  
YES/NO (if yes, please notify on a separate sheet)**

Is the Vehicle Wheelchair accessible? **YES/NO**

Does the vehicle have a meter fitted? **YES/NO**

Make: ALSHERCF

Model: ALHMET

Address at which vehicle will be kept. AS ABOVE

ON/OFF ROAD

Insurance Company. EQVITY RENTALS

Insurance Valid From. 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER To. 31/10/2010

Persons covered to drive with limitations (if any) ie. Age restriction, insured only.

ANY DRIVER

Fully Cophensive / Third Party/Fire/Theft

PRIVATE  
Hackney/Private Hire Cover

Where is the Fire Extinguisher kept? IN THE BOOT

Is the vehicle to be used to undertake Social Service/Education Dept Contract? **YES/NO**

If YES, state type of contract.....

**NB Drivers on Social Service/Education Dept Contract journeys must hold a County Transport Badge in addition to their Dual Driver Badge.**

Contact - Children and Young People's Directorate, School Admissions and Transport Department  
Blackfriars PO Box 185 Blackfriars Street Hereford HR4 9ZR

Office Tel No: 01432 260924 Email: [schooltransport@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@herefordshire.gov.uk)



ELI VL 15 (new vehicle licence)  
Outside standard licence conditions

Has the applicant held Vehicle Licences granted by this or any other authority: **YES/NO**  
If **YES**, give details: (Continue on separate sheet if necessary).

Have any licences in respect of Private Hire or Hackney Carriage held by you ever been  
revoked, suspended or refused by any other authority? **YES/NO**

If **YES**, give details.....

**NAME, ADDRESS AND BADGE NO.** of all persons who will be driving this vehicle

..... ANY DRIVER .....

**Name and address of Company/Group for whom vehicle will operate**.....

..... WYVERN TAXIS ..... 3 THE PASTURES ..... HEREFORD .....

**Signature of Operator**.....

I certify that the above answers are true and understand that if there are any omissions or false statements, my application will be refused or if a licence has been issued, it will be liable to immediate suspension or revocation.

I understand that any licence issued to me is subject to the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Local Government (miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and any conditions and byelaws that may be in force from time to time within the Licensing Authority. I further understand that any vehicle licence plate issued to me will remain in the ownership of Herefordshire Council.

I enclose the following:

1. Certificate of Insurance
2. Registration Document
3. Certificate of Compliance (issued by Council testing depot)
4. Vehicle Inspection Certificate (issued by Council testing depot)

I certify that I have received, read and understood the conditions in relation to the issue of a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle licence and agree that information in relation to my application may be shared with other directorates within Herefordshire Council.

Signature..... [Signature] .....

Date 19-8-10.....

**ON COMPLETION PLEASE RETURN**

Any queries regarding any aspect of this application please contact the Taxi Licensing Office.

Tel: 01432 260105

**(Marked PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**  
Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing  
Herefordshire Council  
Council Offices  
P O Box 233  
Bath Street  
Hereford  
HR1 2ZF

ELI VL 15 (new vehicle licence)  
Outside standard licence conditions

**PARTNER FORM**

**(THIS FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SECOND LICENCE HOLDER, IF YOU INTEND TO HAVE TWO NAMES ON YOUR LICENCE)**

**VEHICLE LICENCE**

Surname (MR.MRS.MISS.MS)..... Maiden Name.....

All Forenames..... Previous Surnames/Aliases.....

Date of Birth..... Place of Birth..... Sex M/F

Present Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Telephone Number: Business..... Home.....

**Particulars of Vehicle**

**REGISTRATION NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLATE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above answers are true and understand that if there are any omissions or false statements, my application will be refused or if a licence has been issued, it will be liable to immediate suspension or revocation.

I understand that any licence issued to me is subject to the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and any conditions and byelaws that may be in force from time to time within the Licensing Authority. I further understand that any vehicle licence plate issued to me will remain in the ownership of Herefordshire Council.

**I certify that I have received, read and understood the conditions in relation to the issue of a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle licence and agree that information in relation to my application may be shared with other directorates within Herefordshire Council.**

Signature..... Date.....  
Data Protection Act 1998

This policy covers the treatment of personal data that Herefordshire Council may collect when you e-mail us, complete an application form, or when you complete and submit an online form on our web site.

When completing forms you may be asked for personal information such as name, address, postcode etc. It is only when you supply this type of information that you can be personally identified.

Herefordshire Council is registered with the Data Protection Act 1998 for the purpose of processing personal data in the performance of its legitimate business. Any information held by the Council will be processed in compliance with the principles set out in the Act.

Further information relating to the Data Protection Act 1998 can be sent to you on request.

If you have concerns about the processing of your personal data by the Council you may contact the Council's Data Protection Officer:

Data Protection Officer,, County Secretary and Solicitor, Herefordshire Council, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford HR1 1SH



<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>REGULATORY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>7 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>APPLICATION TO LICENCE A VEHICLE OUTSIDE STANDARD CONDITION 5.2 (i) BY MR CHRISTOPHER RICHARDS</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (EHTS) PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** open

### **Wards Affected**

Countywide

### **Purpose**

To decide whether to licence a vehicle outside the standards vehicle licence conditions.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT the Regulatory Committee:**

**allow this vehicle to have “grandfather rights” on this occasion outside the standard conditions.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- Written request made on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010 to consider allowing an additional seat to be left within the vehicle.
- Amendments to vehicle licence conditions were agreed at Regulatory Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010. ‘Grandfather rights’ were issued to purpose built vehicles, to allow the seat which needs to be moved to allow passengers access and egress to remain.
- This vehicle is a MPV vehicle with 6 passenger seats. One of the seats has to be moved forward to allow passengers access to the rear two seats of the vehicle.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Claire Berrow – Licensing Officer on (01432) 383542

## Alternative Options

- 1 **The 'grandfather rights' cannot be granted and therefore is refused**  
**Advantages:** It ensures that the existing licence conditions are met.  
**Disadvantages:** It could be subject to legal challenge.  
**Reason why Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 1:** Although this has been considered it has not been recommended as it is considered to be inappropriate.
- 2 **To defer the decision in order to get more information**  
The Committee could make a decision to defer the decision while more information is requested.  
**Advantages:** Gives the opportunity for the applicant to produce further information in support of the application and allows him a fair hearing.  
**Disadvantages:** This would delay the decision process and may mean that the livelihood of the applicant could be affected and further costs would be incurred in another committee hearing.  
**Reason why Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 2:** It is felt that any information required to reach a decision has been provided within the application.
- 3 **To reach some other decision**  
**Advantages:** This leaves other solutions open to the Committee to resolve the application.  
**Disadvantages:** There are no clear directions from the Assistant Director with respect to other options.  
**Reason why Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 3:** It is difficult to envisage what other decision could be reached.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- 4 In view of the fact that this vehicle does not have fold down seats in the rear of the vehicle and this MPV is larger in height than most similar 6 seated vehicles, it is felt that this particular vehicle poses less of a risk to the travelling public, compared to the vehicles with fold down seats.

## Introduction and Background

- 5 Under the terms of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 local authorities may make reasonable conditions for the regulation of both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.  
The matter of 'grandfather rights' were approved at Regulatory Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010 (see Appendix 1).

## Key Considerations

- 6 Whether or not, in the given circumstances, the 'grandfather rights' should be granted outside the standard conditions.

## Community Impact

- 7 It is felt that any decision made will have very little or no impact on the community.

## Financial Implications

- 8 Not applicable

## **Legal Implications**

- 9 Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 there is a right of appeal to a Magistrates Court within 21 days of notification of the decision being served on the applicant.

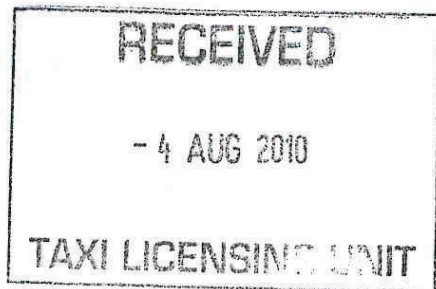
## **Appendices**

- 10 Appendix 1 – Copy of standard licence conditions (set out in item 6 above)  
Appendix 2 – Copy of letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010

## **Background Papers**

Background papers are available for inspection in the Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford 30 minutes before the start of the hearing.





Mr. Christopher Richards  
53 Haylease Crescent  
Hunderton  
Hereford  
HR2 7AN  
07794864018

Dear Sir/Madame

I am appealing against the council's decision to take a seat out of my Volkswagen sharan, as I feel it should have grand father rights. I have the head room, leg room and the seats are manufactured by Volkswagen themselves so they provide comfort for my customers and with the red pull chords it enables my passengers to exit safely and easily in case of any emergency. The seat has not been altered or customized in any way, my vehicle was designed to be seven seated by Volkswagen themselves therefore I believe it should stay seven seated. I feel that my type of vehicle is being discriminated against.

I have been a taxi driver since 2002 and have always had a seven seated vehicle as I have plenty of six seated jobs around my local area as well as taking people to and from airports.

I hope you will take the time to read my reasons to appeal because your decision will have a huge effect on my livelihood.

Yours faithfully,

**Christopher Richards**



<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>REGULATORY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>7 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>APPLICATION TO LICENCE A VEHICLE OUTSIDE STANDARD CONDITION 5.2 (i) BY MR STEPHEN DAVID WILLIAMS</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (EHTS) PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** open

### **Wards Affected**

Countywide

### **Purpose**

To decide whether to licence a vehicle outside the standards vehicle licence conditions.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT the Regulatory Committee:**

**allow this vehicle to have “grandfather rights” on this occasion outside the standard conditions.**

### **Key Points Summary**

- Written request made on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010 to consider allowing an additional seat to be left within the vehicle.
- Amendments to vehicle licence conditions were agreed at Regulatory Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010. ‘Grandfather rights’ were issued to purpose built vehicles, to allow the seat which needs to be moved to allow passengers access and egress to remain.
- This vehicle is a MPV vehicle with 6 passenger seats. One of the seats has to be moved forward to allow passengers access to the rear two seats of the vehicle.
- The vehicle was compliance tested on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 and one seat was excluded from the licence dropping it from a 6 to a 5 seated vehicle.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Claire Berrow – Licensing Officer on (01432) 383542

## Alternative Options

- 1 **The 'grandfather rights' cannot be granted and therefore is refused**  
**Advantages:** It ensures that the existing licence conditions are met.  
**Disadvantages:** It could be subject to legal challenge.  
**Reason why Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 1:** Although this has been considered it has not been recommended as it is considered to be unreasonable.
- 2 **To defer the decision in order to get more information**  
The Committee could make a decision to defer the decision while more information is requested.  
**Advantages:** Gives the opportunity for the applicant to produce further information in support of the application and allows him a fair hearing.  
**Disadvantages:** This would delay the decision process and may mean that the livelihood of the applicant could be affected and further costs would be incurred in another committee hearing.  
**Reason why Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 2:** It is felt that any information required to reach a decision has been provided within the application.
- 3 **To reach some other decision**  
**Advantages:** This leaves other solutions open to the Committee to resolve the application.  
**Disadvantages:** There are no clear directions from the Assistant Director with respect to other options.  
**Reason why Assistant Director has not recommended alternative 3:** It is difficult to envisage what other decision could be reached.

## Reasons for Recommendations

- 4 In view of the fact that this vehicle does not have fold down seats in the rear of the vehicle and this MPV is larger in height than most similar 6 seated vehicles, it is felt that this particular vehicle poses less of a risk to the travelling public, compared to the vehicles with fold down seats.

## Introduction and Background

- 5 Under the terms of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 local authorities may make reasonable conditions for the regulation of both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.  
The matter of 'grandfather rights' were approved at Regulatory Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010 (see Appendix 1).

## Key Considerations

- 6 Whether or not, in the given circumstances, the 'grandfather rights' should be granted outside the standard conditions.

## Community Impact

- 7 It is felt that any decision made will have very little or no impact on the community.

## Financial Implications

- 8 Not applicable



## **Legal Implications**

- 9 Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 there is a right of appeal to a Magistrates Court within 21 days of notification of the decision being served on the applicant.

## **Appendices**

- 10 Appendix 1 – Copy of standard licence conditions – as set out in Agenda item 6 above  
Appendix 2 – Copy of letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010

## **Background Papers**

Background papers are available for inspection in the Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford 30 minutes before the start of the hearing.



## Berrow, Claire

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**From:** Poole, Ady  
**Sent:** 19 August 2010 16:44  
**To:** Berrow, Claire  
**Subject:** FW: Review of conditions attached to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

**Attachments:** Steve's document



Steve's  
document (115 KE)

For your attention  
Adrienne Poole  
Licensing Assistant  
Environmental Health and Trading Standards Council Offices PO Box 233 Bath Street  
Hereford  
HR1 2ZF

01432 260549

-----Original Message-----

**From:** tuscany gebbia [mailto:tramonto@btconnect.com]  
**Sent:** 19 August 2010 15:02  
**To:** Taxi Licensing  
**Subject:** Review of conditions attached to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

Mr S. D. Williams

Underoak,

Grafton Lane

Hereford

HR2

8BW

Ms Claire Berrow  
341466  
Licensing Officer,  
Taxi Licensing Regulatory Committee  
@tesco.net  
Environmental Health and Trading Standards,  
Herefordshire Council  
August 2010

Tel 01432

email; stever007

17th

Dear Ms Berrow,  
I refer to your letter to me dated 20th July, 2010

I am writing to appeal against the decision made by the Taxi Licensing Department effectively requiring me to remove one of the seats from my Volkswagen Sharan reducing it from a six seater to a five seater vehicle. Originally, you told me during a telephone conversation, that I would have 'grandfather rights' for this vehicle. However, two days before my vehicle went for plating, and too late really to do anything about it, I was told that this was not going to be the case.

I understand that this decision has been made for safety reasons. Hundreds of thousands of Volkswagen Sharans have been sold in the UK in the last few years, - is there an implication now that these vehicles are unsafe in six-seater format? Insurance companies do not consider these vehicles unsafe, otherwise I would not be able to easily obtain insurance, which is not a problem. I believe that this 'U

turn' decision is just another case of local government interference in every aspect of health and safety policy.

Mr. Eric Pickles, M.P. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has indicated he would like to sweep away such interference by local government. I am in the process of writing to Mr. Eric Pickles, M.P. to look into this petty bureaucracy, which is taking Health and Safety too far.

Having driven a taxi for five years, (including an incident when my vehicle was written off by an out of control car and disembarking the passengers was not a problem) I consider this ruling to be excessive.

Had I have known you were going to make this decision I would not have purchased this vehicle in the first place, and now unfortunately this decision is going to have a significant detrimental effect on my business. It is hard enough to make a living with so many taxis on the road as it is.

I await your response before I decide what course of action is left open to me.

Yours sincerely

Stephen D. Williams

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