

From: Sent: 26 February 2019 21:38
To: Kathryn Ashton <KAshton@swindon.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Taxi Licensing

Kathryn,

I would like to request that the Licensing committee review the current convention that private hire taxi drivers can only have a license with one company at a time. I have been approached by a number of taxi drivers following the press coverage following a discussion of the issue at a recent Scrutiny meeting.

The drivers are keen to be able to take bookings from multiple companies, especially those drivers who regularly take passengers on long-distance trips to airports and seaports. They find it frustrating that they only have a booking for one leg of the journey, and travel one way without a passenger, whilst seeing other Swindon taxi drivers at the destination who have a single passenger for the other leg. The drivers would rather take less journeys, but be paid for both legs as it is much more profitable, as well as reducing the overall car journeys from Swindon.

The argument that the drivers make is supported by their status as self-employed taxi drivers, but currently they are limited to working for just one company as they only have one copy of their license and it is lodged with a particular company. If the drivers were properly self-employed, they would be able to drive for which ever company they chose to.

The current system would require a private hire driver to give notice to the operator that they are driving for, collect their green form, physically take it to another company and start driving for them. This doesn't give drivers the flexibility they need to be able to drive for the company that may need them.

Can we review the Council policy of one license per driver to allow drivers to pay for multiple copies of their license, so that they can drive for more than one operator? Drivers have suggested that they would be happy to pay up to £10 for each duplicate license.

Let me know what changes you need to make it fit the required format...

Thanks,

Jim