

Euro 6 Emissions and Maximum Age Limit Policy Consultations

1. Please leave your comments regarding the proposed Emissions Standards Policy

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	6
1	03/04/2020 14:50 PM ID: 138568909	agree		
2	01/05/2020 11:30 AM ID: 139914618	<p>Swindon Taxi Association recognises the need to reduce and control emission levels and its members are generally supportive of the Proposed Emission Standards Policy in only granting new licences to vehicles that meet Euro 6 standard from April 2020.</p> <p>However, it is stated that all taxis will be Euro 6 emissions compliant from 1st January 2024. This implies that the current vehicle age limit will only apply to vehicles of a Euro 6 emissions rating or above and all non-euro 6 compliant vehicles may be removed from service at this time. At the last Forum meeting, we asked for clarification on this point and was assured that there would be no change of age limit to vehicles already plated and in service. However, this proposal would suggest otherwise.</p> <p>This issue needs clarification so we can fully understand the implications as there may be some serious operation and financial ramifications to the taxi trade if this is indeed a statement of policy.</p> <p>Given that the purpose-built wheelchair accessible vehicles are permitted to run for 15 years as opposed to 10 years for saloon cars and private hire, this would result in in some well-maintained mid-life vehicles being prematurely retired from service, rendering them practically worthless, while placing those owners under enormous financial strain with owners facing costs of £35-60k to replace them.</p> <p>We would not support this move, given the current crisis the taxi trade faces, following the global pandemic, and respectfully ask that the Licensing Manager considers removing this action from the proposal for the time being.</p> <p>Andy Lucas Secretary Swindon Taxi Association</p>		
3	11/05/2020 16:31 PM ID: 140773160	Agree, something must be done to reduce pollution especially from old London taxis that are well above safe pollution levels as they rarely get the services needed to keep them at even the manufacturers levels of pollution		
4	11/05/2020 21:21 PM ID: 140806768	<p>Last year I invested in a vehicle which adheres to all the rules and regulations that Swindon Borough Council had in place at that time and have now paid a lot of money on a vehicle with the understanding i would be able to use the vehicle until it was 15 years old.</p> <p>I fully understand that the council would like to go 'green' with public transport but think drivers who adhere to the current regulations you have in place meaning the cabs that are on the rank at the moment should be able to be used to the agreed time. I agree if new vehicles come on and those needing renew would need to follow the new guidelines.</p>		
5	19/05/2020 10:34 AM ID: 141535027	I don't have a problem in principle, particularly for vehicles which work around town only. For vehicles which travel further (i.e. airport transfers) with luggage, hybrid cars don't have sufficient boot space. I have looked at buying a Mercedes Hybrid and there was room for only one case in the boot. Imposing this restriction on these drivers will very soon put them out of business.		

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		Added to this the newer vehicles (2017 onwards) which have the better emissions rating (including hybrid and electric), costing over £40k when new attract a much higher rate of Excise Licence (£465) for the first five years - putting more drivers out of work!		
6	31/05/2020 15:04 PM ID: 142247732	<p>I fully support the proposal that only Euro 6 qualifying vehicles be eligible for licensing for the first time from a date yet to be determined .</p> <p>However the full implications of the quote from the proposal Euro 6 standard will then apply to all existing licensed vehicles from Jan 24 needs examining .</p> <p>Many responsible proprietors leading up to and including 2015 bought the very latest vehicles that were available at that time and in the case of those buying wheelchair accessible vehicles anticipated a working life of 15 years when carrying out cost analysis calculations in their business plans . Such vehicles under this proposal will have their working life reduced to at worse around 8 1/2 years , a reduction in excess of 43%. Such owners will be severely disadvantaged .</p> <p>As a Conservative Administration , the party of small business , I would like to believe that any predetermined and agreed support package available should be communicated before any decision is made .</p> <p>This is a big decision for many in the trade and it should be decided in detail by committee and no part of it left to interpretation by individuals at a later date .</p> <p>Clive Edwards Hackney Carriage Proprietor</p>		
			answered	6
			skipped	1

2. Please leave your comments on the proposed Maximum Age Policy

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	7
1	03/04/2020 14:50 PM ID: 138568909	agree		
2	01/05/2020 11:30 AM ID: 139914618	<p>Swindon Taxi Association does not object to the proposal for for vehicles being presented to the Licensing Authority to be licensed for the first time as a Private Hire Vehicle or Hackney Carriage, not to exceed a maximum of 4 years of age from the date of the vehicle registration.</p> <p>Andy Lucas Secretary Swindon Taxi Association</p>		
3	11/05/2020 16:31 PM ID: 140773160	<p>The current age limits were imposed by the council as a TEMPORARY age limit.</p> <p>It never did ANYONE any good as the extended age limit firstly meant that drivers simply ran those cabs into the ground, and because of their lack of values in the vehicles missed and rarely maintained them.</p> <p>From a rental point of view, cab rents dropped so dramatically, the only way to maintain the cabs was to fit second hand parts!</p> <p>Drivers found out cabs a liability to keep running cheaply, residual part exchange dropped not allowing reinvestment.</p> <p>This was a major error from the council that was pointed out by myself at the time and must be acted upon, which would reduce pollution at the same time.</p> <p>I would suggest taxis and private hire vehicles be bought back to the maximum age of 5/10 respectively.</p> <p>Vehicles could, under the old rules be replated a month before their 5/10 registration date to allow another 11 months</p>		

2. Please leave your comments on the proposed Maximum Age Policy

			Response Percent	Response Total
		Solving this and going back to the OLD date system WILL in effect SOLVE all the council issues over pollution! Also would stop people being in the trade unless they were more committed!		
4	11/05/2020 21:21 PM ID: 140806768	In regards to the age limit i think this need to be looked at on a vehicle by vehicle basis, as in the 12 years i have been a taxi driver i have seen some taxis that have been taken off of the rank due to the age limit which have been better looked after than some of the younger models that were allowed to stay as they adhered to the age limit.		
5	19/05/2020 10:34 AM ID: 141535027	No issues with this but I have no idea how drivers will pay for their vehicles - will put even more money in the pockets of private hire firms who rent cars at extortionate rates (and then don't maintain the vehicles adequately).		
6	28/05/2020 12:29 PM ID: 142091084	I am flabbergasted that a so called consultation is being carried out at a time when a total lockdown is in place. Drivers don't have any work or income don't know when it will end , don't know of any financial implications when the situation changes. How any driver can pass an opinion on the proposals is beyond me when no answers to the above are available. And also since when can you put a vague consultation document out to drivers , no discussion and then gather whatever information from an on-line survey. Is that what democracy is being downgraded to. I am so disappointed that this process has not been withdrawn at this moment in time and revisited when at a more sensible time. Ie when the pandemic is over		
7	31/05/2020 15:04 PM ID: 142247732	Had an impact assessment been included with this proposal (I suggest in future proposals emanating from licensing officers should include one) it would have been clearly evident that there is no improvement or gain available . Any environmental improvements are already covered in proposal 1 . Taxi / Private Hire licensing has a proven inspection process for vehicles being licensed for the first time where only the best vehicles are accepted resulting in no achievable scope for improvement regardless of vehicle age . The only impact this proposal will have is placing an additional financial burden on a group of people in a trade that simply can't afford it . Clive Edwards. Hackney Carriage Proprietor .		
			answered	7
			skipped	0

3. Please provide your contact details if you would like us to stay in touch with you (e.g. to keep you up to date)

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Your name		100.00%	7
1	03/04/2020 14:50 PM ID: 138568909	mr m shears		
2	01/05/2020 11:30 AM	andrew lucas		

3. Please provide your contact details if you would like us to stay in touch with you (e.g. to keep you up to date)

			Response Percent	Response Total
	ID: 139914618			
3	11/05/2020 16:31 PM ID: 140773160	James Kent		
4	11/05/2020 21:21 PM ID: 140806768	Anthony Street		
5	19/05/2020 10:34 AM ID: 141535027	Stephen Cummins		
6	28/05/2020 12:29 PM ID: 142091084	KEITH RADWAY		
7	31/05/2020 15:04 PM ID: 142247732	Clive Edwards		
2	House number		71.43%	5
1	03/04/2020 14:50 PM ID: 138568909	11		
2	01/05/2020 11:30 AM ID: 139914618	11		
3	11/05/2020 16:31 PM ID: 140773160	64		
4	11/05/2020 21:21 PM ID: 140806768	8		
5	31/05/2020 15:04 PM ID: 142247732	11		
3	Postcode		85.71%	6
1	03/04/2020 14:50 PM ID: 138568909	sn36js		
2	01/05/2020 11:30 AM ID: 139914618	SN3 4PP		
3	11/05/2020 16:31 PM ID: 140773160	SN34XR		
4	11/05/2020 21:21 PM ID: 140806768	sn251bf		
5	28/05/2020 12:29 PM ID: 142091084	SN2 8HB		
6	31/05/2020 15:04 PM ID: 142247732	SN1 4LA		
4	E-mail		85.71%	6
1	03/04/2020 14:50 PM ID: 138568909	mikeshears@swindon.com		
2	01/05/2020 11:30 AM ID: 139914618	andrewlucas.1969@yahoo.co.uk		
3	11/05/2020 16:31 PM ID: 140773160	James.kent1@sky.com		
4	11/05/2020 21:21 PM ID: 140806768	AnthonyStreet211@gmail.com		
5	28/05/2020 12:29 PM	swindonblackcubs@aol.com		

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			Response Percent	Response Total
	ID: 142091084			
6	31/05/2020 15:04 PM ID: 142247732	clivejedwards@yahoo.co.uk		
			answered	7
			skipped	0