

APPENDIX B

Swindon Borough Council Licensing Committee are considering amending a policy that affects Private Hire Drivers Licences.

In accordance with The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and Town Police Clauses Act 1847, a licence must be obtained in order to drive a Private Hire vehicle. In determining whether a licence can be granted the Council must be satisfied that they are a 'fit and proper' person or to be clearer a 'safe and suitable' person.

The function of Licensing is the protection of the public. A member of the public stepping into a motor vehicle driven by a stranger must be able to trust the driver to be honest competent and safe. Taxi drivers can often convey elderly, children and vulnerable persons for a host of reasons. The Licensing Authority has an onerous responsibility to ensure their safeguarding role, including Child Sex Exploitation, is carried out adequately and effectively.

Swindon Borough Council currently licences over forty private hire operators, four of which are mainstream taxi providers and the other Thirty-seven are specialist chauffeur providers.

A licensed driver is required to lodge his private hire driver's licence with the operator from whom he or she receives bookings. Operators cannot provide jobs to a driver unless they hold the licence.

A request has been submitted to the Swindon Borough Council, Licensing Committee, which urges the Licensing Authority to review its current policy in which states that a driver may only have a maximum of two licences which entitles each driver to work for one mainstream operator and one specialist chauffeur provider.

The purpose of this consultation is to collate the opinions of the public as well as the taxi trade regarding the Private Hire Driver Licence policy, including as to whether or not the policy should be amended.

The results of this exercise will be used to determine the policy that will be taken back to Committee for consideration, prior to being endorsed by Full Council.

A paper copy of these questions is available on request. All queries should be directed to: Licensing@swindon.gov.uk marking your subject as Private Hire Driver Licence Policy or call 01793 466208.

This survey will close on Monday 27th May 2019 at 5pm, all paper and electronic responses must also be received by this time.

Proposed Amendment to Private Hire Drivers Policy

1. Introduction

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1. Privacy Notice - Please read through the Privacy notice below.

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/directory_record/23323/hackney_carriage_and_private_hire_privacy_notice

							Response Percent	Response Total
1	I acknowledge the Privacy Notice						100.00 %	6
Analysis	Mean:	1	Std. Deviation:	0	Satisfaction Rate:	0	answered	6
	Variance:	0	Std. Error:	0			skipped	0

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2. Do you think the Council should continue with this policy?

							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						66.67%	4
2	No						33.33%	2
Analysis	Mean:	1.33	Std. Deviation:	0.47	Satisfaction Rate:	33.33	answered	6
	Variance:	0.22	Std. Error:	0.19			skipped	0

3. Do you think the Council should allow a driver to work for any licensed operator without restriction

							Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes						66.67%	4
2	No						33.33%	2
3	Not Sure						0.00%	0
Analysis	Mean:	1.33	Std. Deviation:	0.47	Satisfaction Rate:	16.67	answered	6
	Variance:	0.22	Std. Error:	0.19			skipped	0

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4. Any further comments you wish to add.

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	4
1	03/04/2020 14:45 PM ID: 138568556	none	
2	11/05/2020 12:09 PM ID: 140705907	Self employed drivers should have option of going where the work is. If you can only work for one operator than it's a restriction and they should employ that driver	
3	11/05/2020 16:03 PM ID: 140767264	Council cannot police the current private hire circuits. Would mean tracing bookings to stop illegal fare pick ups = flying Would become impossible to police. Door signs very rarely used so council cannot even follow their own handbook!	
4	19/05/2020 10:28 AM ID: 141530121	<p>Please don't take this as a complaint as i'm 63 and don't really care anymore.</p> <p>Private Hire Drivers are already working for anyone who gives them work unless you're going to check every car every day, you need to allow drivers to keep their badge and offer copies to each operator they work for.</p> <p>I asked how many drivers i had signed on years 3-4 years ago i was told 2 myself and 1 other. i had previously paid for the second level 10-20 cars and paid £10.00 for every driver. when i queried this i was told you had no idea how many was signed on as the computer wasn't good enough to record this information, and i was done by hand.???</p> <p>You have recklessly given badges to anybody that turns up for the money when there is no work available. pushing prices down Therefore making drivers break the law and drive for anybody.some are working hours that are dangerous. Which has killed the business. So cars and all standards of drivers and clean cars etc are so low that locals don't really want to use local cars</p> <p>You're taking people off the dole office that then get</p>	

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4. Any further comments you wish to add.

		Response Percent	Response Total
	Badges and testing paid for by the tax payer that have no real UK background to check, and you reduce the standards every day. Every driver operator I speak to think its at best a shambles and you really have no idea how things are operating in practice.		
		answered	4
		skipped	2

5. Your Contact Details:

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	First Name	0.00%	0
	No answers found.		
2	Last Name	0.00%	0
	No answers found.		
3	E-Mail	0.00%	0
	No answers found.		
4	Contact Number	0.00%	0
	No answers found.		
5	Open-Ended Question	0.00%	0
	No answers found.		
		answered	0
		skipped	6