



Authentic guided tours of Mid Wales

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Powys County Council

Licensing authority (Taxis & Hire Vehicles)

29th January 2019

Re: The Council's consultation on an age policy for licensed vehicles.

I wish to make representations regarding your proposed policy for imposing age limits in respect of licensed taxis and hire vehicles.

I run a small business known as Welsh Overland Safari. This is an "add on" to my other business.

Through Overland Safari, I arrange small group tours of local areas, giving people the opportunity to experience the beauty and scenic value of the local area and learn about the local history and fauna and flora.

To operate the tours I use my 59 Plate Ford Transit Toureno. The current mileage is 59,000 miles. The vehicle travels some 8000-8500 miles per year.

The vehicle is only used for the purposes of the tours. It is not used as a Taxi or Hire Vehicle.

Given the small turnover of the "safari" business the expense of replacing the vehicle for a new vehicle would not be justified. The business would have to cease, the depriving guests of the opportunities to visit the attractions of the area.

I feel therefore that any new policy should take such factors into account and have suitable exemptions for "non taxi" use of such vehicles. I believe the current inspection regime can adequately ensure the safety of such vehicles used as I use it.

I should be glad if you would confirm receipt of this letter and that the views expressed will be considered.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Davies

Susan Jones

From: Ian Grainger <taxibus21@gmail.com>
Sent: 30 January 2019 13:16
To: Licensing
Subject: Vehicle age policy

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Sue

As an independent driver i am really concerned about this because it is going force excessive hours looking for fares in order to try and cover the cost of purchasing a newer 8 seater M1 vehicle as work is not constant enough with there being an excess amount of vehicles working the area of Ystradgynlais.

I am currently operating a 2008 Fiat scudo 8 seater M1 that is in good rust free condition that I purchased and spent a lot of money on rebuilding the engine and renewing various other parts to ensure it was up to a good standard with reliability.

In order for myself to go out and purchase a vehicle under 6 year old will probably cost in excess of £6,000 and more than likely have done 400,000 miles or more , and the current work load and vehicles in the area would make it impossible to earn and have the finances left to fund a newer purchase of a vehicle less than 6 years old within the timescale I would have.

If the age limit proposal does go ahead as proposed it will most definitely drive myself out of the area where I have relied on for trade for many years and license my vehicle in Neath port Talbot.

NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES age policies

Neath port Talbotaltered their age policy in 2018 to ANY AGE vehicle as long as it conforms to the standard they request

SwanseaLicense vehicles from new and last until the vehicle expiry or break in license as long as it conforms to the standard they request

Thanks

Ian

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Susan Jones

From: Susan Jones on behalf of Licensing
Sent: 18 December 2018 13:24
To: Susan Jones
Subject: FW: Taxi Newsletter Dec 18.pdf
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png; image003.jpg

From: Mike James <mike@pontardawe.net>
Sent: 18 December 2018 12:23
To: Licensing <licensing@powys.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Taxi Newsletter Dec 18.pdf

Good Afternoon

Thank you for your email, regarding the recent newsletter, I am surprised to see Powys County Council, taking forward the 6 year rule, as this will incur undue hardship for some operators, due to the current financial situation, Wales wide Which is effecting the cash side of the Taxi business.
Also as an operator with both yourselves and Neath Port Talbot Council, we work cross border in both Counties, I find it surprising that NPT have revised their policy to the following.

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES.

Any age any colour except black

And For Hackney which are on for the Life of the vehicle subject to test, is the following, any age and mileage on wheelchair accessible vehicles, subject to test, and all Hackney plated saloons will be subject to the existing rules.

I would request that the Licensing Committee rethink this proposal, as it may effect and individuals european right to work.

Yours

Mike James

Pontardawe Taxis

From: Martin Phillips <martin.phillips@powys.gov.uk> on behalf of Licensing <licensing@powys.gov.uk>
Date: Tuesday, 18 December 2018 at 11:41
To: Pontardawe taxis James <mike@pontardawe.net>
Subject: Taxi Newsletter Dec 18.pdf

Please find the attached s requested.'

Martin Phillips



(Trwyddedu Cymraeg) – Cyngor Sir Powys
Licensing Team – Powys County Council



(Rhif ffôn / Tel no. 01597 827389)



(Cyfeiriad ebost / licensing@powys.gov.uk email address)

David Smout

Tyle Gas Cottage

Velindre

Brecon

Powys

LD3 OTA

180119

11th January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your newsletter regarding raising the standard of the Licence Fleet in Powys.

The age of the vehicle does not guarantee the standard of the vehicle. You could have a new vehicle that is being driven by two separate drivers, doing night and day shifts, covering 50 to 70 thousand miles a year but neither drivers may actually have an invested interest in keeping that car to a high standard.

Alternatively you could have a driver with a 10 to 15 year old high quality car, only covering 10 to 20 thousand miles a year but keeping that vehicle to a high standard.

So my objection to this proposal is that the age of the vehicle does not guarantee a safe, high quality standard but maintaining and checking this vehicle regularly does.

To improve the standards there should be checks made after a set amount of miles are done and more spot checks to see if the vehicle is up to standard and in good condition when it is in use.

Insisting that a vehicle is under 12 years old is not going to raise the standard of the Licenced Fleet in Powys.

Yours faithfully

David Smout

WELCOMES

Regarding the Consultation on New Vehicle conditions please find below our views: -

As a local Taxi company this consultation will considerably curtail our ability to provide an efficient service. Within our fleet 45% of our vehicles are over 12 years old. At present we provide a service to everyone, providing affordable prices. We also have contracts to provide transport for individuals who would otherwise not be able to leave the house. On average a week we provide transport via a contract for 70 people; who would be unable to attend social groups and appointments which would have a detrimental effect to their health and well-being. We also provide transport for children attending schools, who without our service would be unable or have great difficulties in being able to attend.

We are decreasing the age of our vehicles gradually but are finding it increasingly difficult to find vehicles that are reasonable and fit for purpose. We have recently purchased a hybrid car, which is eco-friendly. However due to the terrain we live in the hybrid is unsatisfactory when providing a service to the more rural of customers. Hybrids are automatics, and due to the narrow, muddy and very often steep country lanes, it just does not compare to our older vehicles.

At present, we locally source the maintenance for our vehicles, as well as try to purchase them locally. The repairs, MOT, as well as other needs for safety provide work to local people. Due to the legislation at current, making sure the cars are fit they must have MOT checks 6 monthly, however if we were to source newer vehicles like our hybrid they have to be completed by specialist garages, meaning we would not be able to support other local businesses.

The service that we provide is of a no refuse basis, due to the robust nature, reliability of our cars and competency of our drivers we are able to provide a service in all weathers. If the condition changed to first licensing a taxi which was no older than six years old we would be looking at an average price difference of £8,000 - £10,000 per vehicle, if we were to continue to buy the vehicles that we have found best fit for purpose. This would have an impact on our affordable prices. The price increase would have an effect on not just those who rely solely on our transport to access the community, but could also create a greater risk to road safety due to individuals not wanting to pay the increased transport fares and driving home under the influence.

This would also effect the number of cars we could afford in our fleet, impacting the amount of jobs we can provide, and meaning that jobs may actually be lost.

Vehicles that we see providing services in cities would not be safe on the terrain that we provide transport on. These types of vehicles (Skoda's, Vauxhalls) are not as sturdy or safe if an accident was to happen. We would not feel comfortable sending our drives, or customers in cars that were not fit for purpose, we conclude that a more realistic figure be considered.

Susan Jones

From: Rhian Suddell <ambercabs1@aol.com>
Sent: 31 January 2019 14:45
To: Licensing
Subject: Consultation on new vehicle conditions

AMBERCABS
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I, the owner of Ambercabs in Welshpool, feel as though the vehicles presentation for licensing from the first registration should be 9/10 yrs rather than 6. Because of rural environment, it would not be viable to have a newer vehicle which would depreciate in value and cosmetic appearance quicker than in an urban environment. This would be a good age for a taxi to retire after 10 yrs. the biggest part of our customers including school transport children live in rural areas.

Yours sincerely

Rhian suddell