

A summary of the responses received to the consultation to review the council's Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire Licensing Policy

A total of 7 responses were received:

- 1 local resident
- 5 licensed Tewkesbury Borough Council operators or drivers
- 1 neighbouring licensing authority

Local resident:

- Concerned that as a wheelchair user she finds it difficult to get an accessible taxi or PHV in Tewkesbury, particularly in the evenings.
- Concerned that her friend can't get a taxi to visit her in her care home, because her friend has a dog and taxis / PHVs often refuse to take dogs if they are not assistance dog.

TBC operators/drivers:

- Concerned that adoption of an enhanced fitness test for taxis and PH vehicles will result in higher charges from the testing stations.
- Concerned that executive-style vehicles in immaculate condition will no longer be able to renew their licence because they are over 10 years old.
- An operator that deals solely with Glos County Council contracts to transport children has expressed concern that any age limit on vehicles will force them to replace a large proportion of their fleet of specially-adapted, but older, vehicles, and has proposed that such vehicles should be exempt from any age limits.
- An operator has commented that any change in requirements which will force drivers and operators to replace their cars should be given at least an April 2022 deadline to enable them to do so.
- An operator has expressed concerns about having nominated testing stations which may result in delays in booking appointments and restricted choice.
- The same operator has requested a meeting to discuss these issues.
- A driver is concerned about the proposal to introduce nominated testing stations which will lead to delays in bookings which can result in the driver being unable to work.
- A hackney carriage (HC) driver is opposed to the requirement that all HCs will be wheelchair accessible (WAV) because there is not enough HC work available. In order to continue to be HC under the new proposals, he will need to purchase a WAV, but instead he would choose to become PH instead of HC.
- A PH operator who runs a one-vehicle specialist limousine service is concerned that he will be unable to operate if the 14 year age limit is introduced, because his limousine is over 14.

Other licensing authority – Cheltenham Borough Council

- Full response attached.