



Have your say

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles Consultation Report- Comments



Consultation: 6 November 2023 – 29 February 2024

Report: 11 March 2024

Contents

Vehicle Age.....	4
Question 6: Private Hire Vehicles must be no more than 10 years old. Do you think the Council should maintain this age limit for Private Hire Vehicles?	4
Question 7: Do you think the Council should have any age limit for Private Hire Vehicles?	17
Question 9: Private Hire Vehicles that are 6 years old or more must have an MOT and Compliance Test every six months. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?	24
Question 10: A Hackney Carriage Vehicle must be no more than 3 years old to be granted its first licence. Do you think the Council should maintain this age limit?	33
Question 11: Do you think the Council should have any age limit for Hackney Carriage Vehicles being licensed for the first time?	39
Question 13: Once a vehicle is licensed as a Hackney Carriage Vehicle it can continue to be licensed with no upper age limit. Do you think the Council should maintain this policy?	43
Question 14: What do you consider that age limit should be?	46
Question 15: Hackney Carriage Vehicles that are 10 years old or more must have an MOT and Compliance Test every six months. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?	49
Question 16: If an owner of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle wants to change their vehicle, the replacement vehicle must be the same age or less than the current vehicle, and in any case no more than 10 years old. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?	54
Window Tint.....	58
Question 17: In addition to the legal requirement Wirral Council require Private Hire Vehicles to allow at least 70% of light to pass through all other windows. This means that the maximum tint level permitted for these windows is 30%. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?.....	58
Question 18: In addition to the legal requirement Wirral Council require Hackney Carriage Vehicles to allow at least 70% of light to pass through all other windows. This means that the maximum tint level permitted for these windows is 30%. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?.....	75
Step Height.....	82
Question 19: Do you think it is necessary for a Private Hire Vehicle with an entrance step height exceeding 38cm to have a fitted step or portable step?.....	82

Question 20: Do you think it is necessary for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle with an entrance step height exceeding 38cm to have a fitted step or portable step?87

Question 21: Where bench seats are fitted to the rear of Private Hire Vehicles the seat must be at least 48" wide (16" per rear-seat passenger) measured along the front of the seat. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?90

Additional Comments93

Question 22: Additional Comments93



Vehicle Age

Question 6: Private Hire Vehicles must be no more than 10 years old. Do you think the Council should maintain this age limit for Private Hire Vehicles?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
12 YEARS
Cars are very expensive
Should be able to use up 10 years old with only one mot per year
car needs to be maintained and looked after, age shouldn't affect it
Happy for cars used past the 10 year mark to go through Council Approved MOT centres. Safety is the priority here.
I feel in current climate and cost of living crisis if you extended to 12 yes that would allow drivers a little more flexibility. Also other councils are similar with 12years on cars LCC for a start
It's very difficult when people start using other licensing authorities because it's more flexible.
A well maintained quality vehicle can be better than a poorly maintained 'budget' vehicle.
Cars are better made and if maintained well 10 years is fine
Taxis should still remain roadworthy There are many that feel unsafe and you don't want to get in.
Keeping them in reliable condition.
To maintain the safety and quality of all journeys
The amount of black smoke coming from a lot of vehicles is dreadful. If this isnt governed, who only knows what state of vehicle we'd be getting into! Its in the intetest of public health & safety. Our lives are literally in their hands.
I would like to know that the taxi is safe, insured, MOT.
Need to be in good condition
VEHICLES SHOULD BE JUDGED ON WHETHER THEY ARE FIT FOR PURPOSE, NOT THEIR AGE.
Safe, clean and up to date vehicles.
the financial burden it places on the driver

A well maintained vehicle should be able to last longer than 10 years safely.
Older vehicles are more prone to breakdowns, poor bodywork, high mileage
As long as the vehicle is safe, clean and has passed all relevant emissions tests I see no reason for an age limit.
If well maintained, modern vehicles should be fit for service and safely transporting members of the public for at least 12 years.
To reduce air pollution and maintain vehicle quality and safety
I think that the limit should be 12 years
Cars are better built now and can last longer
For safety of the driver and the public
I think modern cars are more than capable of being run for longer than 10 years and still be safe/clean. Appropriate checks would need to be in place
Newer engines tend to burn cleaner, which is important when a car is on the road 24/7, often in residential areas
Normal car's are not designed to be used for private hire and have a limited life. 10 years is the point when major problems arise.
There should be minimum specification based on euro emissions level categories.
They need to be a certain standard.
Some cars run and run for years if they're services correctly, as long as they pass MOT and are safety checked, I'd be happy to use them
Maybe there needs to be an exception for classic cars
I think any vehicles older than this should not be used
Taxis do high milage so at ten years old they may be unsafe and look untidy
If the vehicle is properly tested and passes, no need for a 10 year limit, as is applicable to buses and coaches. If needs be a six month mot pass could be used for vehicles over 10 years, then the vehicle is retested.
I do not know of any other councils that have this rule in place. The age of a vehicle is not necessarily an indication of safety, taxis already undergo more rigorous and regular maintenance and checks so putting undue financial pressure on drivers is uncalled for.
10 years old is too old for private hire.
Older Vehicles would have more problems with them

These days vehicles last longer and we should not be causing perfectly good vehicles to be scrapped because of council rules. Forcing vehicle changes purely on age simply causes increased costs for operators and therefore ends up with increases in price.

Limits environmental impact to air from older technology and modern vehicles have better safety features

Most cars are still in functional use over 10 years., depending on maintenance



Licence Holder Comments

Cars have improved so much they last alot longer

If you're car is in good condition it should be plated til its not basically gives you a chance to make a living and behold to the likes of unscrupulous taxi suppliers

Vehicles can last a lot longer in this age. Add another two years to the limit as long as they pass the mot criteria will help owner drivers financially.

If cars are still roadworthy and pass MOT, older cars should be eligible. In addition to this, a few older cars are still modern looking and haven't been altered for a number of years.

It works well as is

Private hire vehicles that are more than 10 years old and are licenced in different boroughs are allowed to work for wirral companies but wirral registered vehicles can't be more than 10 years old?

With the quality of vehicles available now, this limit is no longer necessary as long as you meet the required standards.

Newer cars are road worthy even after 10 years of first registration

Given rising costs of replacing vehicles and given the longevity of modern vehicles it seems pointless to have to replace a perfectly good vehicle just because of age restrictions. I've seen older PHV vehicles in much better condition than newer hacks the rules for both should be the same

Should be 8 years, but really irrelevant when Sefton/Liverpool private hire can work Wirral firms in older vehicles and tinted windows and cctv. Wirral Council need to get a grip or allow Wirral drivers these also.

If the vehicle is well kept.
Should be longer

As long as a vehicle is week maintained , road worthy and safe a vehicle should be fit for use to transport the public. Buses and coaches can be more than 10 years old and transport many more passengers

15 years as long as its in good condition and looked after.

If a vehicle passes a compliance test it should be eligible to be used.

If the vehicle is good condition and passes an mot it should be allowed to work regardless of age ,the DOT dont make private cars retire at 10 .

It should be down to the vehicle conditions and test. I agree with the six month mot. I am seeing more Sefton taxis working on the Wirral to work around the 10 year age limit.

As long as cars are still in great condition and looked after

I think there should be more clarity to the fact that an over 10-year-old vehicle can be used whilst being checked on a six monthly basis, 90% of drivers will not be aware of this

I think that the vehicle age limit should be increased

The age of the vehicle should be irrelevant, so long as vehicle is MOT compliant and keep clean and tidy

If the vehicle passes MOT and paintwork looks up to standard I don't see why there is ten year limit.

Older cars should be allowed, 6 montly MOTs ensure suitability and safety. Some Hackneys are decades old and in wose condition that 10 year old PH vehicles,

Vehicle age is not a mark of quality or fitness. Vehicle maintenance records, MOTs, regularly quality control checks would be more appropriate

Think they should reduce to 8 years

As long as the vehicle is in good condition I think it should be upto 15 years.

Cars over 10 years old are completely fine to use nowadays. These rules were created when cars were generally much more likely to be unfit for purpose after 10 years. This is no longer the case with modern cars.

Some vehicles are in perfect condition at 10yrs old, also other vehicles from different licensing authorities are working wirral systems & are older than 10 years

All new vehicles if kept clean and maintained they can keep their looks well into 15 years of age

I have been a private hire driver for 33yrs and these I feel forced to leave WBC to go to Sefton because of silly vehicle restrictions. I waiting for an appointment with Sefton.

Some cars need to be allowed

With the living crisis in the country its unfair to put a age limit on the car. Its deemed safe aslong as the car passes its MOT

Vehicles that pass a WBC compliance test should be allowed to remain plated for longer.

But it a big disadvantage to be licensed by Wirral according to everyone I speak to

Every car regardless of age , undergoes an Mot /Taxi compliance check 6 monthly. If the car is fully safe and complaint age is irrelevant.

I would like to be allowed to use cars over 10 years.

If a black Hackney doesn't have an age limit then why should a well maintained private hire vehicle not be allowed to be licensed for a longer period of time.

I believe if a vehicle is able to pass the WBC Compliance test along with MOT then said vehicle should be able to be used as a PHV.

My opinion is that in times of such consciousness regarding the Environment, vehicles should be used for as long as possible and with regular maintenance that is easily achieved as that would be the greenest and cost effective way forward.

Some vehicles of 10 years of age can be in much better condition than a vehicle of 6 years old.

As long as a vehicle passes its MOT and is in good condition inside and out, it should be allowed to be plated.

It's getting ridiculous when I'm working on a system in Wirral competing with drivers plated in Sefton with cars of relatively any age.

Lots of drivers are seriously thinking about getting their badges from another council so they can work on the Wirral with an older car. This in turn will eventually cost Wirral licensing fees.

Think 10 years is reasonably time frame, still get decent vehicle standard from cars / buses 8 years old

As long as the car can pass the MOT, then what is the problem?

I believe that vehicles today, if they are well maintained, will easily be of an acceptable standard even if they are over 10 years old subject to regular MOT inspections.

Modern vehicles are better built and can sustain more than 10 yrs if maintained correctly at least to 12 yrs of age , my own vehicle is now nearly 8 yrs in use but maintained to a high standard and I have no doubt it would last beyond 10 yrs and still be up to standard ,

I think they should be no older than 12 years old

I think it's paramount that private hire vehicles should be no more than 10 years old. The reason for this is that they are not purpose built vehicles. I think they should maintain this age limit

Should be able to use any aged car as long as it passes mot and is in a good standard

For environmental reasons.

With modern vehicles being well maintained they can still be structurally sound upto far longer than 10 years.

Some vehicles, although over 10 years old can be as good as a lot newer vehicles if well maintained and looked afterlp

I think vehicles need to be kept to under 10 years old. There are plenty on the road licensed by Sefton & LCC, some of them are horrendous and falling apart.

If you car pass the mot and road legal then we should be able to use the vehicle as we are in a cost off living crisis and car are get more expensive

Some vehicles over 10 years old are still in very good condition.

Vehicle today are made to last longer. We are already on 6 month tests. All other surrounding councils allow older vehicles which puts us at a massive disadvantage.

If a car is in good condition and passes MOT then why should a driver have to then have the added expense of purchasing a new/newer car needlessly ..

10 is enough

12 years as it is very expensive to buy cars

I think private hire vehicles should do 15 years old cars accepted and after 10 years 6 months MOT . Like other council does it already

As long as pass MOT should allow

Modern vehicles are more robust and reliable should be allowed to use as a PHV even after 10 years as long as the pass the vehicle compliance test, drivers from other councils are working in Wirral in much older vehicles which resulting in Wirral drivers getting badges from other councils and Wirral councils are losing money in revenue

Other councils have older vehicles being used on the Wirral

I think as long as the vehicle is in good condition and passes all required inspections age limit is not necessary

My car is 12 months away from the 10 year licence limit. However my car is in excellent working order and a superb standard interior.I think it should be up to 15 years if your car is in excellent condition, like mine.

The rule puts drivers in an already overcrowded business, into more financial hardship.If your car passes an mot and is in exceptional condition why can't it be used for a fair few more years.

Vehicles of any age, deemed safe by MOT and also pass compliance should be able to be used as a PHV. I'd also add the Mersey Ferries are sixty years old and float. Many aircraft in our skies are twenty years old and fly. I don't see any logical reason to have an age restriction on a car that passes a annual safety test, much like aircraft and ships

As long the car has pass an mot with it compliance why shii the age matter the mot is there for a reason,

Council will fix a combination of age of the vehicles and how much miles each vehicles already runs. Age of the car to be increased minimum 12-13 year. But a car reached a mileage of 150000 -175000 even if the vehicle is less than ten years old it will be scrapped.

Liverpool and Sefton don't have this rule and they seem to be doing fine. Everyone's now moving to Liverpool and Sefton council as it's better

It should be at least 15 years and as long as the is fit to drive and passes MOT than it should be for a 12 months plate not 6 months

I believe if the vehicle can pass a taxi compliance test and is safe and clean it shouldn't matter as long as the vehicle is in a safe road worthy condition it shouldn't affect this as many drivers cannot afford a new vehicle.

Been difficult times for a long time now, I've personally had to move council to plate my car

If the vehicle is tidy and passes the required compliance/MOT I do not think there should be an age limit on a roadworthy vehicle

with the current cost of living and the struggles where all having, as long as the vehicle is well maintained and of good condition I think the 10 year rule should be removed. we have other vehicles from other areas working for local firms with vehicles well over 10 years working on wirral. most of these would not pass the mot test we have on the wirral, so our vehicles would still be in great condition.

Test station should if fit for perpose

P/H Drivers will start using other council's to plate their vehicle and apply for P/H Badge.

Mechanical wear

If a vehicle passes a MOT then that should suffice

Age shouldn't matter as long as the vehicle passes the compliance test

15 years in my opinion 6 months testing after 10 for the final 6

Other Council don't have this criteria.

Newer vehicles are road worth for longer than 10 years and price of vehicles have gone very high

We are in a finacial recession drivers can not afford new vehicles.

Modern cars are designed to last a lot longer.It would be more environmentally friendly to keep them longer.

Cars are very expensive now so as long as the car passes MOT then I don't understand what is the fuss with age of the car.

Most other councils allow cars older than 10 year old and it's not fair because lot of driver go to different council and still work in the Wirral.

There are a lot of cars that are ten years old but are kept in really good condition both inside and out and in this day and age most people are just about making a living driving, and

getting a newer car on finance is getting harder for driver. Also there are Hackney cars that are much older than ten years yet they can stay working. I think this is unfair to private hire drivers as we all do the same job picking up passengers and ferrying them from A to B

I think cars are built a lot better now and as long as they are serviced regularly and kept in good condition and passing its MOT with no problems I don't see why they can't go longer.

As long as it is roadworthy should be allowed

Paying customers prefer to get in to a newer car.

Due to the increasing purchase price of used vehicles allowing older vehicles will help make life easier for some drivers. Reducing the amount of hours worked just to cover the cost of the car.

Age is an arbitrary way of ascertaining the fitness of a vehicle, it does not take into account whether the vehicle has been well maintained, which should be the standard the council are aiming for

They should be MOT'd twice yearly at 6 years old.

To strict with rules regarding tinted windows on new cars as majority of new cars come with them as standard

Other councils is giving permit to the vehicles irrespective of the age as long as it pass MOT from the approved centre by the council.

I understand that the standards of some vehicles are not upto expectations but if the vehicle is passing an MOT and compliance test then there's no need for the driver to try and sell a high mileage vehicle for pennies and then have the cost of purchasing a new one just because it is 10 years old. If it's road safe then it should be accepted as a private hire vehicle.

New cars not cheap to buy in today's time of inflation.

We want trustworthy cars to convey our fares

Change to 12 year old car in line with other local authorities

If a vehicle is good enough to pass inspection then it should be licenced.

With the advent of vehicles being built to a higher standard with less corrosion, I feel as if vehicles may be able to last up to 12 years.

As vehicles are tested regularly and if they are in a good safe condition they should be allowed to be used longer, you could be making drivers get rid of perfectly good vehicles.

I think vehicle need age unlimited
Very expensive buy a car now a days
Can't afford buy new cars always

As long as its Road worthy and safe then this should not be a big issue of age as we have to undertake additional MOT.

Cars are lasting a lot longer now days.

Maybe a max milage with age so a low milage car at 11 years of age is OK

drivers cant afford new vehicles

If Legally road worthy and meets all the criteria for use as a PHV then age shouldn't matter
The 2 main reasons 1 your forcing drivers into a financial commitment they may not be able to afford on top of the financial crisis the country is in 2 Discrimination on the part of WBC you allow drivers from other boroughs who's licencing authority has no age limits to work in the area not only our we being discriminated against we are being punished for being licenced with our local authority being punished for putting money into our own council we're all trying to make ends meet and should be treated equally. If the age limit remains the possibility of me going outside the borough to be licenced is extremely high as the added finance of a new car would make the job pointless as I would be working very long hours for less than minimum wage. Legally you couldn't treat me any different because of my ethnicity race religion or sexual orientation so why treat me different to other drivers working in the area just because I choose to be licenced with my local authority

I think that this age limit should be increased, the reasoning behind this opinion is because myself and some of my other colleagues who own their own vehicles keep them in good condition. I think the age limit should be increased to cater for these people. If it passes the mot and is up to standard every test date then I can't see the issue of the vehicle being in use.

I do think our age limit should be lifted to at least 12 years,
As myself I own mine look after it and along as your service it look after keep it clean. They are fine.

Provided vehicle meets taxi test criteria it should be ok to use

I think as long as a vehicle is in good condition and good working order then there should be a bit more discretion regarding age . There seems to be a little more leeway in councils in Merseyside work in the same Borough .

If the vehicle can maintain good working order and can pass a valid mot and taxi mot in accordance to regulations vehicle should be allowed on road if kept to standards required age discrimination is a thing of the past

You can register an older car in a different area then still work for a local Wirral company

Be inline with all other Merseyside councils

If the vehicle is in tidy mechanically sound condition it should be granted a licence beyond 10 years.

I think 10 years for 12 month licenses and an extra 2 years of 6 month licenses as there are some excellent 10 year old vehicles that drivers are having to part ways with. If it meets vehicle safety standards I believe a 14 year old vehicle is fine.

If it passes mot then it's good enough to work

As long as the car is well maintained and safe and kept in a good condition we should be able to keep are cars for at least 15 years saving us drivers money which in this climate would be a great help

Whilst I agree that there needs to be a standard for the condition of vehicles, operating a strict age criteria seems rather limiting; given tat some drivers maintain their vehicles to a very high standard, mechanically and cosmetically, to then disqualify that vehicle from use, purely on age grounds does not make a great deal of sense. If the vehicle passes the stringent six monthly tests, regardless of age, I believe it should be allowed to be utilised as a PHV. Hackney cabs are not subject to the same criteria and other licensing bodies do not impose a ten year restriction. A policy of consistency should prevail.

As long as car is both mechanically and aesthetically sound it can be older subject to council inspection

Other councils extend the age limit for vehicles past thus limit.

I think each car should be inspected and based on the individual car, my car is 2014 plate and due up next year but only has 98000 miles on it as only been a taxi for the last 2 years.

If vehicle is road legal and in good condition there should be no reason to force PH drivers into purchasing a new vehicle.

The way cars are maintained I think it should be 15 years

I think vehicles should continue up to 12 years without the use of panel and waste of time for everyone. I believe if the vehicle passes MOT then the plate should be given as the MOT is proof

Cars this age are more reliable & in better condition.

Car do have more reliability built into them and rustproofing is so much enter than it used to be

Most councils has no restrictions for the vehicle age

13 years

The council could keep it at 10 years, but with cross border hiring, drivers can plate there vehicles for longer in other boroughs.

Other local authorities do not have this rule so as my car approaches 10 years considering registering with them as I currently do not have the money to replace car. I may well stop driving once my car reaches 10 years old.

If a car passes the taxi test it shouldn't matter how old it is
Vehicles that pass mot should be ok to use for private hire. Vehicles are very expensive to buy.
Vehicles can still be in a good condition for PH driving even after 10 years. Neighbouring councils such as Liverpool allow older than 10 years
Vehicles are so much more reliable these days
Providing it can pass taxi test age shouldn't matter
Depends on condition of a 10year old vehicle maybe your criteria of inspecting a vehicle at the 10year point you can alone visually see if it is In a condition to do the job properly.
As long as the vehicle is maintained, maybe introduce safety inspections every eight weeks with an approved garage, prohibitions can be issued by licensing officers where the vehicle can be prohibited until a safety inspection has lifted the issue.
I think the age limit on all vehicles should be no older than 8 years old due to the amount of use they are subjected to.
Any way cars after 10 years will be very high mileage and not will be suitable for driving
Electric and hybrids last longer
It should be same across the Liverpool city region. If it is 10 years across the Liverpool city region then 10 years is fine but it must be the same unlike now.
Liverpool Sefton Knowsley council's using 15 year old vehicle
Should be no limit just like others Liverpool Sefton Knowsley
If vehicle is fit for purpose then it should be allowed
I believe this should be the case for normal private hire vehicles however this age limit should be increased for purpose built vehicles such as school minibuses / wheelchair accessible vehicles.
The age of the vehicle should be at least 12 years ,reason for this is the increasing value of used vehicles
Only my opinion but vehicle age eight years or younger
Should be like liverpool
Today's cars are made to last. If they pass a taxi mot they should be allowed to be used longer.

At present, there are many private hire vehicles working in the Wirral council area which are more than 10 years old. These vehicles get the license from other councils (even far from Wolverhampton Council) and they work in the Wirral. I think it is time to allow more than 10 years old vehicles to work in our council as a private hire, thanks

Other councils allow older vehicles if in a good condition

If the vehicle is still road worthy and passes its MOT and compliance then what is the issue

I think Wirral Council should impose the same rules for all private hire drivers operating on the Wirral. There should be unity amongst all councils. At the moment there are drivers registering with other boroughs whilst working on the Wirral. They are using vehicles more than 10 years old.

I believe the same rules should be applied to all drivers regardless of where the plate has been issued.

We as a body who represents vast numbers of Wirral taxi and private hire drivers, believe it is unfair that licence holders from other councils such as Liverpool city, Sefton, Wolverhampton, can come and work here in Wirral with much older cars, yet the Wirral licence holders can't.

Other councils have allowed for cars older than 10 years to be used, this is a much better option as due to the cost of living crisis most drivers are struggling and it is not feasible to buy another car in this economy, it may also lead to more drivers dropping out of the field and losing their source of income as they can't afford another car that will have to be replaced again in a few years.

, long as the vehicle is fuel efficient and low emissions and road worthy, surely it's better for the environment to keep the car for longer. Also saving money; and also totally unfair as drivers from other districts are using older vehicles

Most cars are good for a least 15 years

Cars are more reliable and save nowadays.

Vehicle is in perfectly good condition

I think if a vehicle is in good condition it shouldn't make any difference what age it is also the price of new cars

Question 7: Do you think the Council should have any age limit for Private Hire Vehicles?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
If they pass MOT and Compliance Test they should be considered for licensing
Should have any car with one year mot up to 10 years old
Cars used past this date should go through additional safety testing, every 6 months. (MOT X2 a year), undertaken by a council approved MOT centre.
As above
if the bodywork is in very good condition and the car is maintained to a good standard i dont see there being a problem
If well maintained, modern vehicles should be safe for 12 years. Making drivers purchase newer vehicles unnecessarily early may not be affordable and scrapping vehicles before the end of their effective service life is wasteful and environmentally unsound. However, I don't think an extension beyond 10 years should apply to diesel vehicles.
I think 15 years is reasonable if passing MOT and passing officer checks as long as petrol and not diesel.
If a vehicle is safe then it should be OK to continue to be used
Again, it's less about age of a car and more about whether it's been looked after and MOT'd etc
If the vehicle is properly tested and passes, no need for a 10 year limit, as is applicable to buses and coaches. If needs be a six month mot pass could be used for vehicles over 10 years, then the vehicle is retested.
See above answer.
I believe 5 years is old enough in terms of vehicle presentation and to ensure the vehicles are the most modern in terms of latest technology and safety.
We should not be causing perfectly good vehicles to be scrapped because of council rules. If the vehicle is well maintained and in good condition, it should be able to be used.
Most cars are still in functional use up to 15 years

Licence Holder Comments

As long as its tidy and compatible should not be a problem

With the advent of electric cars, there are no statistics to govern their road worthiness and to impliment age restrictions could be unnecessary

Modern cars are built to last longer with various parts still being available. But should only be granted if the cars are still roadworthy.

When the original limit was set, the quality of vehicles was far below current standards

Under 15 years to plate first time with age restricted to 20 years.

Vehicles that are well maintained & looked after should be allowed as PH

To keep a decent fleet on the road for paying public. Pointless again when a Sefton car could turn up for them

As long as car is in good condition, you can get a car that's 5 years old and one in better condition at 12 years. Like Ellesmere port and other councils.

An additional two years is not an unreasonable addition

Times are hard ,economic down turn ,many drivers can't afford a new car.

I think this is maximum

If the vehicle is kept to manufacturer specifications and kept clean and tidy and is MOT compliant there shouldn't be a limit

Regular checks should be enough, once a vehilce doesnt meet safety/MOT requirements then a licence can be declined

Perhaps on first licence a vehicle should be no older than 6 years old

some of the cars on wirral look unkept and tied mainly ,more so other area cars

Like I said, it would be better to have a 15 year age limit as vehicles are expensive

As long as the car is fit for purpose why should the age of the car matter?

As long as the vehicle is road worthy 15 yrs old is fine

some cars are good even they are 15 years old

If vehicles are looked after they can last quite a while. So aslong as the car passes its MOT is should be road worthy.

Vehicles are now better made and are able to cover higher mileage so if able to pass a WBC test they should be allowed to remain plated.

Same as the above

The condition for issuing a licence must be the overall condition of the vehicle. (Or an extension for 12 years)

As the previous question if black Hackney's don't have a limit private maintained vehicles should be the same

If things don't change Wirral licensing will lose a lot of revenue.

Pass MOT

If vehicles are subject to regular MOT inspections then this should be adequate to ensure a vehicle is acceptable. Perhaps a more stringent MOT for older vehicles might be prudent.

I think 12 is possibly an age we're a vehicle may have run it's course as a ph vehicle but later cars may be able to sustain further years , again all down to maintaince and driver

My personal vehicle is 18 years old and is safe and tidy

I think 12 is a sweet spot, however, should be in very good condition

Ev and cars are getting more expensive to finance

Any age could have problems in safety

If a vehicle passes the enhanced compliance test then it is fit for purpose.

As above .. Think this should be extend to 12-15.. also agree that this age limit shouldn't be abused as customers should still be travelling in a clean fit for purpose car .

Newer cars are very expensive and other licensing authorities allow older cars hence why a lot of drivers are going there.

15 or 20 years car should be ok

There should be no age restrictions as long as the vehicle is fit and proper maintained properly and passes the required test, Wirral council should look up to Liverpool and Sefton council who have no restrictions on vehicle age thus resulting in Wirral drivers getting badges from Liverpool and Sefton

If in good condition should be allowed to get extensions

As long as the vehicle is in good condition and passes all required inspections there should be no limit

As I have said if its in excellent condition it should be extended. There should be a fair and reasonable way to allow older vehicles to continue to be licensed.

Any allowable vehicle which passes MOT and compliance is insurable in the UK and therefore should be allowed as use for a PHV. The requirement for two test per year should be maintained for vehicles over six years old to facilitate increased inspection of older vehicles

If it road worthy and pass it mot with it compliance , why should it have age limit on the vehicle.

13 Years a reasonable period for normal wear and tear cosmetic, comfort of the vehicle . Within these period a lot of technological and safety features to be changed within the industry.

Good condition & as long as pass the mot

As above, as long as the vehicle is of a good standard & compliant to carry passengers this should not effect the service of transport.

A lot of older cars are in great condition not like they used to be

If the vehicle is tidy and passes the required compliance/MOT I do not think there should be an age limit on a roadworthy vehicle

no I think the 10 year rule is dated, with so many other areas now working the wirral with vehicles well over 10 years we are being victimised by a ridiculous rule. as long as we pass the mot and compliance test it shouldn't matter about the age of the vehicle.

The cost of new vehicles (electric).

vehicles are able to do 15 years if looked after

If the MOT is valid, no need Age limit

Age of vehicle has no bearing on this. Older vehicles can often be in excellent condition.

You can buy a car 10 years old with only 50000 miles on the clock or one 3 years old with 90000 miles on the clock. Meaning the 3 year old car has more wear and tear.

Most modern cars are designed to last 300000 miles at least.

As long as it passes MOT there is no need for age limit

If the car passes it's MOT and the Council test then it should be ok after 12 years the council could ask the driver to bring his car in for inspection one a year

Maybe checks if it gets to a certain age an seen as unfit to be used anymore breakdowns ect then struck off

If a car is well maintained and looked after, and tested every 6 months. Hackney carriages have no age limit, why can't private hire be the same.

See answer 4

As long as the vehicle is roadworthy and in a good condition, it is OK

As per my last answer, if the vehicle has no major defects then it doesn't affect its use as a private hire vehicle.

like other neighbouring councils the vehicle should not have upper age limit until passing MOT and Compliance test.

Other local authorities nearby have 12 years.

If a vehicle is good enough to pass inspection then it should be licenced.

15 year's

Also on a case by case basis.

As vehicles are tested regularly and if they are in a good safe condition they should be allowed to be used longer , you could be making drivers get rid of perfectly good vehicles.

As it goes by dvla standards if its Road worthy and clean then should not affect ability to carry passengers.

You need a high level of maturity and a understanding of how to deal with public that only comes with age

with older cars when maintained,they drive as good and are as safe as newer cars,and their production carbon foot print is already made ,however a new car to replace the older vehicle will produce another production carbon footprint,so better for environment to slow down making new cars,and save resources,and look after the cars we already have.

If Legally road worthy and meets all the criteria for use as a PHV then age shouldn't matter it doesn't make sense to punish drivers who keep their PHV in the condition needed to meet ALL the criteria set out by yourselves again compared to drivers from other boroughs allowed to work in the area we're being discriminated against being punished for looking after your vehicle

I think this would be a reasonable age limit because in my own experiance I have a couple of colleagues who's vehicles are on the limit but have passed their mot with flying colours, I think it should be increased because we have a strict policy for this but other licensed vehicles from other areas are able to operate in our region with older vehicles

I think cars have improved alot over the years. And we do require mot every 12 months.

As above answer

As above age discrimination is wrong as long as passes relevant tests should be allowed on road costs of buying new vehicles is to much now

Cars are much better quality than 10 years ago

Be inline with all other Merseyside councils

No. Should be able to run as long as tidy and mechanically sound.

Vehicle standards are a lot better in recent years in terms of safety and achieving a lot higher mileage. Don't see the point in forcing debt onto drivers when other local authorities have licenced vehicles working Wirral. Local drivers are being punished I feel.

It all comes down to cost to the drivers

As per my answer given in Section 4, if the vehicle is maintained correctly and passes the stringent six monthly test, its use should be allowed.

Same answer as above

Each car should be inspected and if it's passes the lot and compliance test then it's should be allowed

I think 15 years is good enough

Vehicles when serviced correctly can easily have a usable life up to at least 15 years

As above

If the vehicle can pass the private hire mot, then that should be good enough.

Provided vehicle is well maintained and meets the compliance test requirements should be allowed.

If it passes the taxi test any age

As long as the vehicle passes the private hire MOT , should be able to use it for private hire, especially since the cars are so expensive to buy now

As above, a well maintained vehicle should be fine

An older vehicle can be just as good if not better than a 5 year old one if maintained correctly

If the vehicle is bought from new & maintained as above there should be no age limit.

I have said 15 years but see my comment in section 4.

As long as MOT is passed then the vehicle should be able to be used as a private hire vehicle

No there should not be a age limit on private hire vehicles. As long as the vehicle passes an MOT and compliance test then it should be deemed fit for purpose. Maybe when they buy a new vehicle it should be younger than 10 years old.

A 10 year age limit seems fitting for Normal private hire vehicles but I believe that purpose built vehicles such as school minibuses should have a higher age limit.

Any vehicle in sound condition over 10 years old that can pass a compliance test and government mot test every 6 months should be suitable

If the car passes a taxi mot, or any mot, it should and is allowed on the road

there are people who work part time as private hire drivers, these vehicles do only less mile in an year, so in 10 years time these cars do only less than average miles

Maybe 12years

As long as the car is maintained, in a good clean condition for passengers comfort and roadworthy then there should be no limit imposed. The council should concern themselves with how well presented the vehicle is rather than its age.

We believe 12 to 15 years age limit will be fair.

Giving the car an extra 5 years will benifit the driver an his out going an also the environment.

12 years is a good age ,

We keep it fully maintained and service.

Most vehicles now are built to last ...if there looked after and serviced regularly there shouldn't be any reason why they can't last 15 years at least

As long as the car is upto standard it shouldn't matter what age

Question 9: Private Hire Vehicles that are 6 years old or more must have an MOT and Compliance Test every six months. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
10 years
MOTs are for 12 months
Should have any car with one year mot up to 10 years old
10 years is fine.
Again to encourage more drivers to join the profession and enable a steady amount of costs a yearly test should be suffice
6 months is excessive and is expensive for owner drivers.
Maybe this could be mileage related too. For example some of these cabs are used round the clock. Maybe say every 6 months or 25,000 miles whichever comes first
A lot can happen to a vehicle in 12 months if the milage is high.
All vehicles must be of the best quality especially with the cost charged to passengers
As above
Same as above
TO ENSURE THEY REMAIN SAFE
Safety
as stated above well maintained and kept clean and tidy
More frequent checks are required due to the high mileage driven by these vehicles
Saint Helens and Sefton areas do not work to this rule. Why should Wirral be any different ?
I would expect a vehicle that I am paying to be transported in to be well maintained, safe and compliant. All vehicles have to have an MOT every 12 months so every 6 is not unreasonable.
To reduce air pollution and maintain vehicle quality and safety
Agree with this. They do a lot of miles so more regular checks seems sensible
I refer to my previous answer
Safety reasons. High mileage and possibly multiple drivers
Maybe this should be more than 5 years old

Taxis do mor milage so should be checked more often

It should be about the presentation of the complete vehicle not the age.

This should be maintained ONLY if the age limit is scrapped

I think this should revert to 5 years.

once a year should be good enough cars are designed and built to last longer than 6 year
some have 7 year ganentees

An annual MOT and compliance check is sufficient. Doing it more frequently simply increases operator costs and therefore forces fares to go up.

Safety First and a lot can occur between annual MOTs

MoT is the standard for vehicle maintenance

Licence Holder Comments

I get a UK mot for 12 months yet have to do it every 6 crazy waste of money and resources

As long as under ten years old and the vehicle passes a standard MOT and compliance test it should remain one unless vehicle is been in an accident.

It passes a 12 month mot it should stand otherwise we lose on renewal and test amount

It's a punitive/ cautious approach. Mot testers cannot predict if a car will fail once it leaves the testing place whatever the age of a vehicle

All cars should be subject to a health/compliance check regardless of age depending on the mileage the vehicle has completed. However the cars should not be limited to a 6 month plate.

I personally think yearly would be fine

I've owned my vehicle from when it was only 6 months old and it has been maintained exceptionally. It's now coming up to 7 years old and it is still in very good condition with regular services. I strongly feel a mot 6 monthly is unnecessary and a mot once yearly is fine.

An MOT is valid for 12 months, therefore a compliance test should be valid for 12 months.

If the age limit increased then the six months MOT should be increased to 10 years old

As long as standards are maintained, annual tests should be adequate up to 10 years old.

6 months MOT should be increased to 10 years or older to be in line with Hackney carriage.

If the restrictions were increased I think 6 mth plates at 10 years and older would be appropriate

8yrs would be sufficient

I personally think at least 10 years old for this ruling in well maintained vehicles

Same as Hackney cabs 10 years.

It helps to maintain the cars roadworthiness

The DOT don't require a vehicle to be tested ever 6 months after it reaches 6 ,all private hire vehicles are kept in excellent condition as it's their livelihood.

I think this should be for taxis of any age due to their mileage and wear and tear.

With modern cars most taxis will exceed mileage by that time anyway however, I still think if I got an MOT test is good enough and legal than that should be the case for taxis between six and 10 years old

Compliance test every year for 3 years then MOT and compliance every year until 10years old then 6 monthly

Maybe 6 month vehicle check but do yearly plates.

Regular check with no age limit will ensure safety and suitability

As stated previously regular MOTs and vehicle maintenance checks are a better way of ensuring vehicle safety and quality

I think it should be from 8 years every 6 months because most drivers look after their vehicles.

If the car passes its MOT then it should be licensed for the year. Again, with modern cars the difference between 6 months and a year, and the likelihood of a massive difference in deterioration over this time is not worth the extra MOT per year.

It's highly unlikely a vehicle is more likely to develop a more serious problem in 6 months than 12 months no matter the age

If a car has passed its compliance test then there is no need for 16 months later

10 yrs

It should be a yearly check instead of every six months

Eight years for more modern vehicles would be more appropriate.

As long as you the license office keep random spot checks on the Wirral

Up to 10 years old, vehicle should be tested every 12 months. A fit and proper licence holder would ensure the car had regular checks of safety and compliance by their service provider.

I think it should be once a year

I believe once a vehicle is 8 years old it should go onto 6 month plates.

This will help maintain standards of older vehicles.

Maybe 7/8 years as standard has got a lot better with efficiency & safety

Don't have a problem with this

A vehicle which is 6 years old is still a relatively new vehicle and probably does not require to have two MOTs a year at such an early age. Maybe linking an additional MOT to mileage might be a fairer method?

For the same reasons as I have given in the above post.

Every 12 months don't see why there is a discrimination between neighbouring boroughs

For safety reasons.

This is absurd and realistically needs to be scrapped, a 6 month requirement should be for 10 years or older vehicles this ensures that they're not deteriorating at a faster rate due to age, with most modern vehicles they are in almost perfect condition 7/8/9 years after purchase. IF NOT then mileage should be taken into consideration at least, if an 8 year old vehicle has

done 10000/15000 miles it technically is in better condition than a 4 year old vehicle with 80000/90000 miles

8 years just like hackneys is a good age

I think an MOT & Compliance test should be yearly rather than 6 monthly, this will be time and cost saving.

A normal car that has passed an MOT does not have to

MOT for 12 months is good enough for the government

Vehicles over 10 years old should have a test every 6 months.

6 year old car is still fairly new why not extend to 8-10 years then every 6 months

vehicles don't require a MOT by law until 3 years old. They should then start there 10 years

Should be 8 years or older as Liverpool and Sefton doing similar

Should be given full 12 month license up to 10 yrs

MOT should be every year

If your car passes an MOT and is excellently maintained, it should qualify for 12 months whatever the vehicle age. If vehicle testers pass the car I would assume they would be able to judge like any car it is safe for 12 months.

See answer six

Six months MOT should be increased to a car is ten years.

It should be increased to 9 years. but council enforcement team randomly inspect internal neatens of the private hire vehicle and issue warning letters, fines and stop memo for vehicles with minimum standards.

Follow Liverpool council

As long as the vehicle is fit to drive and passes MOT then I don't see any issues why not give TEST EVERY 12 months!!

I think this is necessary to keep within compliance & keep passengers & the driver safe.

12 months is good enough for normal people

I think there should be the same rules for any licensed vehicle. ie what makes a PHV less roadworthy than a Hackney Carriage

again this is a dated rule that is just added cost that we have to swallow, if it passes its MOT it should be for the 12 months with spot checks carried out if a complaint is made about the vehicle, we are all supposed to be professional driver's and should be trusted to maintain our vehicle

As above
Today's vehicles are much safer/ better construction/ anti corrosion.
Yearly would be suitable, as per normal, however also it could be seen a garage profiteering
12 months is ample
The mot rules should be the same as any other vehicle
1 year MOT is fine
6 months mot should be only on the vehicles that are over 10 years old just like the Hackney carriage
This is a safety issue to make sure vehicle are in good order
Most modern cars are better than when these rules were brought in.
That makes more sense doing MOT every 6 month on older cars than having age limit
If the car is well looked after and passes its MOT and compliance test. It should be ok for that year twice a year is just costing the driver more expenses
As long as the vehicle in very good condition it should be once a year
Maybe increase to 10 years depending on the type of vehicle petrol/diesel/hybrid/electric
A yearly mot and a once a year inspection should be enough.
Because of the high mileage taxis do I agree with the 6 months testing after 6 years old.
Every vehicle in this country is giving 1 year MOT.
In my thoughts I think the 6 monthly tests would make more sense if you scrapped the 10 year limit and then when the Vehicle turns 10 make the 6 month tests compulsory. At the end of the day our vehicles are our livelihood and the majority of us really look after them as we don't want me to be out of work,
I have recently just renewed my plates and the vehicle is now over 6 years old so I'm on 6 monthly plates. Both MOT tests that have been completed since it's been a private hire vehicle and both been passes with no advisory's so having 6 monthly tests is just another overhead for the driver that on most cases I believe isn't needed until the car is at least 10 years old
This should be every year.
We maintain our cars well, it's the licensing that should do more random checks rather than us do 2 mots a year
Change to 4 years old or more
There's no evidence that a vehicle over six years old wears out faster.

Should be 1 year
Cars are not that old at 6 years to warrant tests every 6 months
Once a year should be enough but yet again around six Months time may just have checked out without additional charges.
Again down to milage. Not the age of car
A 6-10 year old car cannot deteriorate to the extent of needing an MOT every 6 months , it's an unnecessary expense
safety always comes first
Again extra financial commitment forced on drivers the age limit for cars should be scrapped and replaced with MOT and compliance from 10 years old every 6 months that would make it fair and reasonable
I don't think this should be maintained because if we are gunna extended the age limit to 12 years maybe increase the mot limit from 6 years old to 8 years old.
I think if we did move to say 12 years we could say 8 years of 12 monthly plates the 6th monthly for the remaining 4 years.
MOT every 12 months up to 8 years old an then yhe last 2 years every 6 months. An as long as it passes an MOT should able to keep as a taxi as long as its in top condition
Annual testing is quite sufficient
1 yearly is suffice
More likely for thing to be worn after 6 years
If a car is roadworthy no need for all these rules
Some 6 year old cars are in better condition than younger vehicles. I believe it adds an unnecessary expensive to owner drivers.
Vehicle safety is a lot better over recent years. I think 10 years of 12 month licenses.
Should be every 12 months as cars tend to be better looked after.
Modern cars have greater life spans and longer warranty
As per my answers in Sections 4 and 6.
If the car is well maintained and looked after, clean and tidy no tears in seats major dents or scratches
Just putting more cost on drivers
Up to 10 years to have it every year instead of six month and the last 2 years up to 12 years to have it every six months

I personally look after my vehicle extremely well & feel a 12mth test is suffice, every 6mths costs more money & time renewing plate.

I believe plated vehicles should be plated every 6 months if they are doing a high mileage over 30000 per year

Mot and complaint test should be ones a year

Again if it can pass the private hire mot, it should be good enough for 12 months

Good idea as keeps cars to a good standard

Yes but over 10 years

After 10 years , vehicles should have MOT every 6 months.

MOT and compliance are not expensive so every 6 months will not be bad. I would say the outside condition should be reviewed as too many cars fail because they have to look to good.

Every twelve months would be better

Maybe extend the 6 years to 8

12 months is enough

I think vehicles built today are well able to be tested yearly up to 8 years if maintained and cleaned regularly.

Since the cross boarder hire has been implemented we have vehicles older and different conditions working in the area the present rules discriminate both Private hire & Hackney owners.

This will make sure that the vehicles are kept to a high standard.

I think once in the year is more than enough

Once a year

Again if this is a Liverpool City region requirement.

Prefer having MOT once every year

With recession

Its difficult to m.o.t every 6 months

A vehicle these days at the age of six years is still in good condition. Maybe this could be moved to 6 monthly MOT after the vehicle reaches 12 years.

Over 10 years every 6 months

12 month MOT is sufficient for vehicles that are well looked after and don't mis service requirements

10 years of age should be the requirement for 6 monthly mot tests

This should move to 8 years old. Especially with current vehicle prices.

If the vehicle is serviced and maintained often or as a minibus provided then we would be happy to provide documentation to show this

As previously stated as long as the vehicle is maintained, presented well and mechanically sound 12 months would be better.

8 years will be fair inline with other councils

A normal one year MOT would be a better option

Should be 8 years

To ensure the safety of the vehicle, as it ages may be prone to more wear an tear on safety features

Once a year should be sufficient until 10 years old

If the mot lasts 1 year so should the licence,

I think it should go on the make of the vehicle if the car is well built ie German makes it should be at least ten years befor going to 6 monthly mot,s

I think after 10years every 6 months

Question 10: A Hackney Carriage Vehicle must be no more than 3 years old to be granted its first licence. Do you think the Council should maintain this age limit?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
They're built to last
Should have any car or hackney the same with one year mot up to 10 years old
10 years then every 6 months, by an approved MOT centre,
A hackney is built for the job and can handle it better than a private hire car.
Doesn't seem a sensible restriction.
To maintain quality and safety of all vehicles
Public health & safety
As long as it's maintained, road worthy.
IT SEEMS AN ARBITRARY RESTRICTION THAT WILL RESTRICT CHOICE AND RAISE COST.
Safety and reliability.
same as all the comments above
The mechanical condition of the vehicle should be more important than the age of the vehicle.
I see no reason not to increase this to 5 years, but don't imagine this would need to apply in many cases.
To reduce air pollution and maintain vehicle quality and safety
There is a decline in Hackney licensing and we shouldn't make it harder to register vehicles as long as they comply with other requirements
in general made for harder work life
As above
Up to 5 years would be better
It should be about the presentation of the complete vehicle not the age.
See first answer.
I didn't even know that this rule was in place. It simply seems ridiculous. Granting a licence, whether it is the first licence or a repeat licence should be based upon the vehicle condition and roadworthiness, not its age. There will be vehicles that are 10 years old that are in better condition than others that are 3 years old. Use common sense!

5 years is more practical for first time drivers and affordable and still reasonably modern

3 years seems rather arbitrary



Licence Holder Comments

Again its all about cost if vehicle passes criteria age shouldn't matter

As long it passes an MOT and compliance test, it should be granted a licence.

The cost of newer vehicles these days is quite prohibitive.

The cost of these specialist vehicles is just ridiculous and not everyone is able to afford the huge outlay

Because you've forced current drivers this so should stay the same

In todays financial climate, it's not economically viable.

See reply to answer 8

It's expensive to buy new or under 3.

Hackney Cabs are generally well maintained by owner drivers. Costs are so high to purchase new ones so people are financing them for 5 years then no used hackneys are suitable for plates

I think the same age restrictions should apply to both hackney & private hire

Doesn't make sense that you can only plate a hack under 3 years old yet you can keep it as long as you want as long as it's in good condition. This should be abolished especially with the price of vehicles and there is not as much work as there was.

If the vehicle has been maintained properly and fits the safety criteria as set out by the council and passes a compliance test it should be allowed to be plated .

Not sure why Hackney Carriage Vehicles should be treated differently to Private Hire Vehicles?

It's just a safety issue. It wouldn't look good turning up to plate an old vehicle

Affordability there are absolute money pits on the road and could be replaced with a vehicle that is less of a money pit for cheaper maybe it would save the Hackney trade a bit

As long as the compliance MOT and other requirements are met then age should be totally irrelevant for a vehicles first license being granted

Prices of hackneys under 3 years old is prohibitively expensive, should be just like ph cars and no age limit on new licences, however, a maximum of 10 years would be good

Drivers are struggling on the road due to lack off fairs

This restriction prevents drivers from upgrading or joining the trade due to expensive vehicles

Hackneys are hard to come by. Most can't afford a new vehicle

There are lots of good clean cabs available but cannot be plated because of the restrictions. When replacing a cab that is not in good condition or has been damaged you should be able to replace the cab upto 10yrs old with your existing plate.

Any Hacknet which passes MOT and compliance will be insurable. The lower costs of buying used vehicles to plate as Hackney's will help reduce the cost of business for rhses drivers

To be given Five Years

It should be at least 10 years

As above with private hire, this should not be the case as many drivers simply cannot afford to aquire a new vehicle. This is the reason for compliance testing to assure all vehicles are kept safe & road worthy.

Makes it to dear to get into the job

I think there should be the same rules for any licensed vehicle. ie what makes a Hackney Carriage less roadworthy than a PHV

vehicles under 3 years are priced ridiculously high because they know you have to pay it to get a vehicle licenced, if this was removed and a stricter mot put in place for older vehicles it would help driver's to save money

It seems very draconian, these vehicles are well designed, and very expensive, i would allow up to 10 years

As long as it passes all tests

there is a shortage of vehicles in the market place and the economy on Wirral doesnt justify £65000-£80000 on a new vehicle we need support from the council to purchase Electric or Hybrid

It maintains a realistic fleet size. Only drivers who are committed to invest will be incoming to the trade.

Due to the increased cost to purchase a used vehicle. Not all drivers can afford the cost, or they may have to work ridiculous hours to afford it.

It is common practice throughout the country to limit taxis on qualitative criteria primarily because of lack of ranking space

The cost of a Hackney of that age is very high and the work load across the Wirral is low if it was like London then fair enough but it's not

Cannot purchase new anymore and if you can they are very expensive. There should be no age limit on zero emission hackney

I think this is correct

People cannot afford a vehicle under 3 years old

Change to 5
We're down to 170 wheelchair hackneys. We need more.
I feel this is restrictive purely on economical grounds.
Again same depends on vehicle standards.
These are very expensive and becoming unachievable for most drivers
drivers will think twice about coming into the trade and maintains a balance with in the trade.
Again if the Hackney meets ALL the criteria why force a financial commitment of drivers
I'd say 5 years old due to yhe price of a new one
Again age discrimination is wrong if passes tests nothing wrong
5 years would be fine. Price of new and nearly new vehicles has almost doubled in the last few years.....
Prices of specialised vehicles are going up. The age should be increased.
At present there is a real shortage of new Hackney Carriage vehicles at an affordable cost. Drivers in Wirral simply can't afford those costs as they can't earn enough to pay for a new vehicle. I believe cabs upto 10 years old is a realistic age for newly licensed cabs. This gives new drivers the option of entering the trade without having a massive debt, or just not entering the trade due to high costs.
There is very little choice at the moment for new cabs.
Again it all about the cost
Cost implications are too much
Hackney are built to last for the job
no new hacks coming through
Who in this day and age can afford 30 or 40 thousand pounds for a new or 2 to 3 year old hackney / van. The money is just not there any more, unless you are prepared to work 60 or 70 hours a week.
The council has a list of vehicles that are fit to be plated as hackneys carriages on the wirral it should bare any relevance when the get there 1st plate as hackney have no age limit, with the price of a 3 year old hackney being so high it put off new drivers wanting to be involved in the hackney trade and makes them go to private hire.
Too expensive to buy 3 year old cab
Very expensive to buy Hackney carriage so therefore 3 years old hackney would be too expensive to buy

Hackney vehicles are expensive. Allowing a small change such as 5 years will not endanger the public.

I believe all vehicles Hackney & private hire should only get a license on new vehicles only, this will show commitment and will set a standard.

No comment

This ensures new drivers enter the trade with a decent vehicle

I think as far in very good condition it should be alright

Second hand Hackney's are also in good condition

If this is the same across Liverpool City Region.

The increased value of second hand cabs

We believe 5 years will be fair as modern vehicles are more robust

It should be 5 years as the cost of newer cars has gone up and most drivers struggle to buy a new car

Didn't know about this rule. Seems senseless on what grounds. There are hackneys over 20 years on the Wirral. Roads. A hackney under 3 years old is well over 20k, and are terrible for the environment

As long as vehicle is upto standard

Question 11: Do you think the Council should have any age limit for Hackney Carriage Vehicles being licensed for the first time?

Non-Licence Holder Comments

MOT and Compliance Tests should determine if they're licensable

Should have any car with one year mot up to 10 years old

10 years then every 6 months, by an approved MOT centre,

As above.

As above

Because other surrounding local council do not have this rule.

Age restrictions should apply as per private hire.

Issuing a licence should be based upon the vehicle condition and roadworthiness, not its age.

Licence Holder Comments

Again if vehicle passes criteria it shouldn't matter

If it passes a taxi compliance test and Mot then it's fit for work regardless of age

See answer 8

So long as vehicle is MOT and compliant then age shouldn't matter

No because they are made for the job. The cost of living is getting harder so as long as it's in good condition it shouldn't matter.

Properly maintained vehicles that pass compliance should be plated at any age

All vehicles should be treated the same and be subjected to an MOT to determine their suitability for the job. Again mileage may be a better indicator of a cars suitability and could be an indicator for how stringent an MOT should be?

I often look on the market at vehicle there are plenty out there that could benefit Wirral drivers and affordable

As long as the compliance MOT and other requirements are met then age should be totally irrelevant for a vehicles first license being granted

I think 10 years is ok, however any age limit could mean a Hackney 25 years old and fit for the bin could be plated

To make it fair with private hire

This again allows drivers to upgrade or join the trade

6 years

As above, if an existing Hackney cab needs to be replaced it is getting harder to do so due to cost of living

If it can pass MOT or compliance at an approved testing station and be maintained to applicable standards, then it should be allowed

As long a Hackneys are passing Mot that should be enough

10

I think there should be the same rules for any licensed vehicle. ie what makes a PHV less roadworthy than a Hackney Carriage

6 years would be a reasonable age to buy for a first plate, the cost wouldn't be as high and if its good enough to pass its mot then it shouldn't matter

Test station should say if fit for perpose

Ive mentioned the cost and build factors, i think a better way would be a a very thorough MOT / compliance test

just 1 year inspction/MOT/Compliance

Affordability

If a cab can pass the compliance test and mot then I don't see why it can't be plated

The current system works well enough.

Same reason as above

discrimination if you allow a hackney to be licenced any age then why different for first time licence holders

Run similar to private hire

Again above

Vehicles under 3 years age are hard to come across now due to lack of options for brand new cabs. The vehicles that are available are priced unrealistic for Wirral drivers as you simply can't make enough money to buy a new vehicle.

Many of the older hackney's smoke and rattle and can be noisy due to age

As above

Again if it passes the taxi mot then its good enough.

No i happy that we are restricted in what can be used as a hack age shouldnt stand in our way!

As long as euro 6

6

As previous answer all vehicles should be new to be issued first license this is the best way to invest in business and sets a good standard.

10 years to in good condition

Hackney carriage vehicles are very expensive even second hand. Upping the limit to 6 years would help the cost reduced. You can still buy good vehicles at 6 years old.

If it passes all tests it should be suitable

Yes should be inline with private hire drivers or no more than 15/20 years due to hackney vehicle costing significantly more to buy new

Give the drivers a more realistic chance of changing there vehicle , be a fraction of the price. An still newer than a lot of vehicles on the road

Depending on the condition of vehicle



Question 13: Once a vehicle is licensed as a Hackney Carriage Vehicle it can continue to be licensed with no upper age limit. Do you think the Council should maintain this policy?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
They're built to last and are tested
As long as the vehicle is in good condition and regular serviced.
It should be no conditions on car or person age as long as there in good health. I'd like a taxi driver to show a medical form showing he's safe to drive, since most medical tables people take will say do not drive or operate machines.
It's my safety.
FIT FOR PURPOSE ISN'T NECESSARILY AGE-DEPENDENT.
Why not?
As above
So long as the vehicle is in roadworthy condition.
As long as the vehicle is safe, clean and has passed all relevant emissions tests I see no reason for an age limit
Age of vehicle less important than appearance and safety of vehicle
As long as it's maintained and MOT'd it's fine
It should be about the presentation of the complete vehicle not the age.
As long as the vehicle is road worthy and in good condition, it should be able to be used.
I agree that there should not be an upper age limit once a hackney cab is licensed but this should also depend on the mileage and passing the MOT



Licence Holder Comments

The cost of running a vehicle to maintain high standards doesn't warrant having to go into debt for another vehicle cost of living is affecting us all

See answer 8

As above for private hire.

Hackneys are generally well maintained by owner drivers unless vehicle is in disrepair it should be able to continue

Hackneys and Private hire vehicles should have the same rules regarding age and testing,

Vehicle maintenance, MOTS and regular quality control checks are more reliable

Like I said above, as long as it's in good condition it shouldn't matter

Again it comes down to safety, and compliance testing

The Wirral needs Hackney carriages to help some people who can't get into a car. So as above 15 years should be acceptable providing they are in good condition.

as long as it passes mot and compliance and is in a respectful condition what's the problem

It's up to the M O T testing to determine whether it is safe to carry on being licensed

As long as the vehicle is properly maintained and passes the required test there should be no restrictions

As long as the vehicle is in good sound condition

Like I said if it passes Mot and is of an excellent condition then it absolutely should be allowed to be licensed.

Vehicles maintained and kept in tidy order should have no age limit as long as they pass MOT and compliance are an approved testing station

If the vehicle is tidy and passes the required compliance/MOT I do not think there should be an age limit on a roadworthy vehicle

the mot and compliance test for vehicles are quite strict on wirral, therefore we have some of the best kept vehicles, if they pass its because driver's take pride in them and should be rewarded by keeping it for as long as possible

The cost of new vehicle.

First there are fewer vehicles to buy to fit a criteria that limits choice. Secondly age of vehicle has no bearing on this. Older vehicles can often be in excellent condition. Just look at the cabs coming from London. If you adopt a policy with an upper age limit the taxi fleet will diminish even further. Look at the current numbers and ask why this has happened.

See answer 4

So long as it has 6 monthly MOT's.

If it passes a compliance test it should be used until it can't pass a test

as long the vehicle is passing MOT and compliance there shouldn't be upper age limit.

Replacement vehicle costs

It is hard to find a cab that is a true Hackney cab, the older cabs were specifically built the LTI TX1/ TX2/TX4 as Hackneys but the later ones are converted by different companies from vans, yes they look modern but tend to be very unreliable and expensive to repair.

Yes IF it meets ALL the criteria set out by yourselves

As long as it passes 6 monthly test

I feel the current system works as it is. Most older Hackney's naturally leave the trade once they reach their lifespan

Most have regular services.

Along as the cab is well maintained and safe

Again, as per my responses in Sections 4 and 6.

As above

Hackney cars very expensive to buy drivers need to get full use out of them

Introduce a safety inspection policy as the ministry of transport do with PSV

Buses operate in the area with no age limit and are perfectly roadworthy to high standards.

The cost of these vehicles is very high

Hackney carriages are very expensive to buy. They also cost a lot to run. A lot more than a private hire vehicle. Hackney Drivers would struggle to afford to change the vehicles if an age limit was to come in. Most would not be able to afford to buy another vehicle even second hand due to cost. This would simply put them out of a job. Also less work on ranks etc in the town centre due to shops closing doesn't help at the moment. However the council still needs Hackney taxis to be wheelchair accessible.

A similar approach should be given to the private hire school minibuses that are restricted to such work and again are purpose built for their job the same as a hackney.

And that is why as a private hire I think we should be the same

Question 14: What do you consider that age limit should be?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
There should be no difference in policy regardless of private hire or Hackney carriage.
Corrosion.
There are many older hackney's that look like they are tatty and yield fumes
Hackneys should be govtened in the same way as private hire cars. Too many are expressing thick black smoke, not only adding to pollution, but also in the interest of public safety.
An upper age limit will improve the quality of Hackney Carriage Vehicles on Wirral.
To reduce air pollution and maintain vehicle quality and safety
Any older could compromise safety of passengers.
This would be consistent with my thinking on private hire vehicles
As mini buses and converted vans are now permitted to be used then 15/20 years should be the maximum with a 6 monthly test after 10 years. If a car requires a 6 monthly test after years a van type should have the same after 10 years
Older hackney carriages that are belching out black smoke should be condemned and not continue to be on the road with out modification to be bev.
surely there is a difference in safety standards over 10 year period
This should be the same for all cars
Hackney vehicles are purposefully designed as a passenger carrying vehicle however 10 years appears a suitable length for such vehicles which many are worked 24 hours a day 365 days per year.
why should hackney be different from Private Hire Vehicles are they build to a higher standard No
Higher risk age when carrying passengers.
Same as private hire vehicles

Licence Holder Comments

As long as it meets licencing standards and emmisions but to have vehicles that are 25 years old is excessive.

There built no better or stronger than private hire vehicles

You should treat Hackney carriages the same as Private hire vehicles

It should be the same for hackney's as it is private hire there should be no difference we both do the same job

They should be the same as ph

Same standard as private hire

Again, I don't understand why a Hackney Carriage Vehicle should be treated differently to a Private Hire Vehicle?

There is plenty of Hackney taxis on the road that are to old.

I cannot see the justification for treating HCV's more favourably than PHV's.

20 years is a good age, however car must be still in very good condition and not held together with a wrap or filler

Some of the older TX look really bad

Im not an expert, but there should be some form of limit, as eventually mechanical wear becomes a safety issue

Nearly all vehicles are built in the same way using the same technology and materials there fore why should a Hackney car be any different from any other

Why 10 for cars and 15 for hakneys, please explain

15 should be the new limit on all cars depending on milage

Should be same criteria as private hire they both carry fare paying passengers

No different than a car to maintain

Many of the older hackney's smoke and rattle and can be noisy due to age

If a private hire vehicle has an upper age limit then so should a hackney carriage.

I think 10 years is about the lifespan of a Hackney maybe longer for the electric ones

To be in good condition

Again if this is the same across all Liverpool City Region.

A Hackney vehicle is the same as any other vehicle with the same defects, if any, as anything else on the road

Don't know why a Hackney has unlimited age for use. Yet a private hire. Is 10 years there both cars at the end of the day.



Question 15: Hackney Carriage Vehicles that are 10 years old or more must have an MOT and Compliance Test every six months. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
MOTs are 12 months
Should have any car with one year mot up to 10 years old
10 years then every 6 months, by an approved MOT centre,
Again the rules should be the same for both vehicle types, given my answer for private hire I think yearly is sufficient.
12 months is enough.
Definately!! To ensure of our safety. All vehicles should be regularly checked and compliant. And drivers and council liable. Its publ8c safety.
12 months like a car is fine
TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.
Safety reliability and reinsurance.
as stated if bodywork is in very good condition and well maintained then once a year is enough
More frequent checks are required due to the high mileage driven by these vehicles
Because some of these cabs are worked 24 hours a day using 2 drivers.
I would like to know the rationale behind the difference in the age of the hackney carriage or private hire vehicle for this requirement
MOT and Compliance test should be every 6 months for every vehicle.
Same as above - high miles mean more testing
I refer to my last answer
Definitely to make sure the vehicles are safe
Taxis do lots of miles so should be checked
It should be about the presentation of the complete vehicle not the age.
The same rules should apply for normal taxis and Hackney cabs
once a year should be ok

Once a year is sufficient.

Safety of public



Licence Holder Comments

Again its passed 12 months mot so it should stand

If there are any doubts about road worthiness, tighten up the compliance/mot criteria for private hire and hackneys

Yearly would work just as well

Where is the logic with a private hire vehicle needing 2 mot's a year after 6 years. When a Hack doesn't?

6 same as PH

Once a year is adequate.

Regluar check with no age limit will ensure safety and suitability

I believe it should be after 6 years to keep both hackney & private hire vehicles harmonious within licensing

I think 12 months is more than adequate

It should be yearly like a normal Mot

Maintains standards of older vehicles.

7/8 years

I think mileage would be a better indicator of when further or more MOT inspections should take place.

I have been in this six month M o t situation and i just thought it kept you on top of your maintenance. As much of a nuisance that it was. Unfortunately it is the back and forth to the council office and trying to make an appointment that is an issue. Especially when you can't get through to the office to make an appointment. When the council don't answer the phones. It gives you terrible anxiety.

Have a compliance every six months and have mot like any normal car every 12 months

Although I do not consider HCV's older than 10 years should be licensed if they are I actually consider from 6 years old they should be tested every 6 months in line with PHV's .

Older vehicles need more maintenance and need regular checks

As long as it's passed it's mot like any other vehicle

The M O T is for 12 months so should the compliance be

They should still comply with VOSA 1 year MOT

I think Hackney car and private car should be same age and MOT limit because every car owner have to be do same MOT and maintainins

If it can pass an mot and comply to council regulations it should be 12 month plate
See above.
Common sense to inspect older vehicles more frequently to protect the safety of the passenger, driver, other roads users and the general public
Because they suffer from rot much more than cars
10 years as compared with 6 for a PHV seems to make sense as vehicles do deteriorate, but again this should be across the board.
I think private hire and Hackney vehicles should be 2 a year at 10 years old, to ensure they keep to standards, all councils should have the same rule for this
If its good enough for an mot it should be the same
As above
Same as any other vehicle
common sense
This is a safety issue to make sure vehicle are in good order
Just like any other car if a Hackney passes it's MOT and Council compliance test once a year should be sufficient again after 10 years you could ask to see the vehicle every 6 months just to have a member look it over ,if the is a problem then this can be fixed
If it can pass a test then it should be the 12 months it's test is for
As previously answered
It is to expensive for the owner 50 pounds for m o t and still have 6 months left that goes to weast and then we have to pay 100 pounds twice a year for a plate it's a joke just a money maker
Maybe increase to 15 years.
Once a year is reasonably enough
safety issues
As cars get older wear and tear happens so after 10 years every 6 months to check it meets its criteria is fair
Same as private hire
I agree but some of them out its a wonder how they've passed a test
Things more likely to need replacing after 6 years
Again, I feel the current system of compliance tests work.

Should be 12 months as they are well looked after and good service records
Just have a compliance test mot last 12 months
Again, as per my responses in Sections 4 and 6.
Hackney's seem to be a closed shop given there being a finite number available. New blood should be encouraged
If the m o t is passed it should last for the year
Taxi and private hire testing is very thorough, 6 monthly plates are just another burden on drivers.
What I said for private hire
The same ages should be used for both PH and hackney vehicles. 6 monthly testing from 6 years. I've seen some awful hackney carriages
As previously mentioned introduce a safety policy.
I think the age limit should only be 10 years old
Should be same as any other car
Once a year is enough
The same across all the Liverpool City Region
A vehicle these days at the age of ten years is still in good condition. Maybe this could be moved to 6 monthly MOT and compliance test after the vehicle reaches 12 years.
Should be same rules as private hire
Why can't this be the case for the regular private hire vehicles
An MOT EVERY 6 months is just as effective and more efficient.
Should be no different than a private hire, every 6 years
There should be no discrimination between private hire and Hackney
These vehicles are usually van based, and emissions get worse with age
As previously stated I think private hire and Hackney should be tested every 6 months after 10years old
Should be the same as PH after 6 years old



Question 16: If an owner of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle wants to change their vehicle, the replacement vehicle must be the same age or less than the current vehicle, and in any case no more than 10 years old. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
Renewed licences have no age limit, so change of vehicle should be the same
Should have any car with one year mot up to 10 years old
10 years then every 6 months, by an approved MOT centre,
Why else change the taxi
As above
The taxi if sold should have 12 months MOT, and a service.
SAFETY AND EFFICACY SHOULD BE THE RLEVANT CRITERIA
put's financial on driver
Why, when there is no upper age limit to the licensed hackney carriage vehicles?
It doesn't seem logical given the presumed long service life of taxi cabs.
To reduce air pollution and maintain vehicle quality and safety
I think it's reasonable to increase the 10 years to somewhere between 12-15 years
Older vehicles are fine ax long as mechanically sound and well maintained inside and out
To have a good stock of hankney carriage vehicles serving the wirral public, there needs to be an age check on vehicles picking up off the street and nott attached to a company (private hire company base.
Should be a new vehicle policy to ensure the quality of fleet for Wirral.
This is a ridiculous requirement. It should be based upon the vehicle's road worthiness and condition, not its age.
Encourages use of cleaner vehicles with modern safety ratings

Licence Holder Comments

Its about what people can afford

Agree with statement

That seems reasonable.

Too much emphasis on age , there's no reason why a 10 year old vehicle can't be in better condition than a 5 year old vehicle particularly if it's a low mileage example

For many drivers it's not economically viable to buy a new Hackney,especially the eclectic hacks £50k+

If the replacement vehicle meets compliance then it should be allowed to transfer from/to any compliant vehicle

I believe any vehicle should be less than 6 years on first licence

No. This needs to be abolished

As long as vehicle is road worthy it should be able to be licensed

Some driver /owners can't afford to buy newer vehicles so I think they should be able to change their vehicle , for older or younger as long as it fits the criteria and compliance

There should be a rule of common sense that it's unfit for purpose after 10 years.

Money is tight for everyone flexibilities are needed at the moment to help maintain a fleet of hackney vehicles on the Wirral.

Be replace with any respectable vehicle regardless of age

Seems sensible as should maintain and possibly improves the quality of HCV's licensed by WBC.

I would say as long as it's newer by any amount then that's better than stumping up for a pricier vehicle. Hacks are always more than a private hire car

Some times you can not find the same age vehicle and can not afford a new one

Sometimes drivers have an opportunity to buy a better vehicle that is older than they have

Once a plate is purchased it should be allowed on any vehicle up to 10 years old. Newer or older

There are lots of decent cabs available as long as it comply with regulations we should be able to swop it regardless

If reading between the lines this is for a plate transfer. I have never understood why you can plate a 2 year old Hackney then transfer same plate to an older vehicle. The older must be compliant to transfer the plate so why not just allow it to be plated to begin with?

if a driver has a 4 year old vehicle and is struggling with the payments, why should they be penalised by a rule that won't allow them to buy a cheaper vehicle which is still within the compliance rules and passes the MOT and compliance test

the pay doesn't justify large expense we can't afford £65000-£80000

There are very few vehicles on the secondhand market to purchase that meet the requirements of "under ten years old". Most manufacturers have left the taxi market. LEVC are the main players but vehicle price at £70000 is out of reach for most Wirral drivers and owners. If there is nothing available to buy when replacement is required you lose them to either the private hire trade, usually licensed in Sefton or Wolverhampton or they leave the industry altogether. Everyone that goes takes a wheelchair accessible vehicle of Wirral residents.

A further issue that has helped reduce the number of hackney cabs is revoking a license if it can't be tested before it expires. This practice helps nobody. Look to your nearest neighbour across the river. They have it right.

There seems to be a difference between Private and Hackney in many ways yet both do the exact same job. In the present climate with everything going up in price if a vehicle passes its MOT and compliance test then that should be sufficient till the next year also why is private hire 6 years and Hackney 10 when they are built using the same technology and materials it does not make any difference if the vehicle is 6 or 10 years old a car is a car

Because the assumption that a 'younger' cab will be better is not supported by any evidence

The vehicle can be older, so long as it meets the remit and safety.

If it can pass an MOT then it should be allowed a plate

Nobody is making ICE engines any more

The old system was better.

again to expense is the issue, the bigger the age gap the more choice for the right cab, eg no good having a fleet of eight seater Tourneos trying to get in and out of Tranmere you need to have a diverse fleet.

just no more than 10 years old

If it meets current test criteria does it matter how old it is?

No as long as it passes tests you need to move on as long as car is clean tidy and passes test why can't it be on road

I feel as long as the vehicle is 10 years or younger that would be sufficient. Again, there is a shortage of hackney carriage vehicles at the moment at a reasonable price. I feel over the next few years cab numbers could drop due to lack of availability which will affect customers, especially those who rely a lot on cabs, like wheelchair users.

There is very little choice at the moment for replacement cabs and too expensive.

This seems to me to be common sense, although as a Private Hire Vehicle owner, I do not possess an extensive understanding of Hackney cab arrangements.

I am currently driving a renault traffic voyager conversion, i dont do airports and much prefer round town work, i would be much more suited to a tx4 but i wouldnt get a tx4 under 10 years old for the money i could sell my traffic with tx4 no longer being in production they are mone expensive 2nd hand

As long as newer

Have an upper limit of maybe 8 years so someone needing to change in a 7 year old vehicle can use an 8 year old one

Only need to be less than 10 years old. The same age or less is too limited, owner might have difficulty finding a similar cab and milage may be less in an older cab. New cabs can have lots of problems, mine had a few, new cabs aren't perfect, Owner may want a different make.

Drivers find it difficult to replace these vehicles when involved in RTAs or deterioration as long as a vehicle is deemed fit for the road then the plate should be transferred regardless of age.

No comment

In my humble opinion, I think providing the vehicle is of a better standard I think replacement should just have to be of the same age or newer

20

The same across the Liverpool City Region

Drivers at the moment are struggling to pay bills and rent or mortgages. These limits make it very expensive and a lot of the time unaffordable for drivers to change vehicles for Hackney carriages. This should be changed to be able to buy taxis of any age as long as it passes an MOT and compliance test.

So if there 5 year old vehicle brakes beyond repair or is wrote off. What happens if they are financially unable to replace with a new Hackney ?

As above

Window Tint

Question 17: In addition to the legal requirement Wirral Council require Private Hire Vehicles to allow at least 70% of light to pass through all other windows. This means that the maximum tint level permitted for these windows is 30%. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?

Non-Licence Holder Comments

all private hire vehicles are most booked through an app/ operator which means vehicles are tracked and noted on a system - this promotes safety. most cars are made with tinted windows and drivers may find it hard to purchase a new vehicle without tinted windows. This means most drivers will go for an older car but this stops them from getting a full 12 month licence.

Most cars are factory fitted windows

I think this rule is outrageous 90 percent of cars made today come with tinted windows and the cost of getting them changed is in the thousands and is not fair when you can just go to sefton council and get badge there and plate the car with tints and work on the wirral so wirral are losing drivers and not bothered about it

I think for safety reasons the tint should be limited.

People are moving to Liverpool, Sefton etc because they can buy cars cheaper and of their choice and drive them as a taxi in Merseyside.

Are Wirral losing money because drivers aren't renewing their licenses?

Safety of passengers and driver in case of trouble

Tinted windows shouldn't be allowed as it is still a mode of public transport.

It seems a sensible requirement for safety reasons.

Visibility. Too many dosdy drivers around. I have been propositioned and grabbed on 2 separate occasions by a taxi driver 'wanting a kiss'. Please keep us safe!!!

IT ADDS COST AND IS CONTRARY TO THE LATEST NONSTATUTORY GUIDANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

some cars come out the factory with privacy glass as standard cost's thousands to replace

Because this excludes certain vehicles that are approved and would pass an mot test from becoming private hire vehicles. Surely VOSA have more knowledge about vehicles than a bunch of councillors that approve these rules.

For the safety of the passengers in the rear of the vehicle

To ensure passengers or potential passengers feel safer.

I think it should probably be higher - visibility is very important for a driver, and may also make passengers feel safer

Not really sure but driver vision is of utmost importance. Also important to be able to see into a vehicle for passenger safety

I wouldn't want the windows to be too tinted in a taxi

This lets people see in and out the vehicle as well as the driver having more light

Most cars now come with tinted windows

Other councils do not have this requirement and their vehicles are regularly spotted working on the Wirral. If this is to be enforced it should be for any works vehicles that enter the Wirral

If windows are any darker they will pose a risk for passengers.

passengers need to feel safe in vehicle and able to see clearly out of the windows and inside

It should be the same as normal cars as the safety implications are the same!

I wouldn't feel comfortable in a cab with darkened windows

Tinted windows could hide all sorts of things

Licence Holder Comments

Tinted windows block a significant portion of harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun. UV rays can cause skin damage, premature aging, and increase the risk of skin cancer. Tinted windows help protect both passengers and the interior of the vehicle from UV radiation, plus most new vehicles come with rear tinted windows as standard due to the above reason and many other benefits

Other councils don't

Most modern and upper range vehicles come with a higher tint as standard which limits driver options when forced to change vehicles.

All new cars come with factory fitted tinted windows and cost drivers money to change and times are hard enough already

Most new vehicles with decent specs have tints. All factory fitted privacy glass should be excepted. Especially considering all the other local councils allow tints.

Some manufacturer privacy glass is darker than 30% and the majority of new vehicles come with privacy glass as standard, therefore it is very difficult to obtain a suitable vehicle without privacy glass, also vehicles licensed in different boroughs working for wirral companies are allowed to have privacy glass but wirral licensed drivers aren't?

As factory fitted

It is an unnecessary added cost to PH drivers, as most cars come as standard with tinted windows.

If A vehicle comes from factory with tints it should be allowed to be plated . Most cars now come with standard factory tints , this protects passengers from uv rays and to expect a driver to go through the cost of vehicle replacement to then have to pay another £1-2k to have clear glass fitted is ridiculous. Again if a car passes an mot it should be fit to be plated

It's difficult to buy a modern car without tinted windows, & it is expensive to change them to clear glass

Your stopping Drivers from buying top of the range models as most come with privacy glass and full leather interior what is need for the job. But Sefton and Liverpool can work over here with tints. The nonsense about police saying they need to see whos in the car doesn't add up, hackneys and Ph are moving Dealers around on a daily basis with clear windows so its really irrelevant.

Most modern vehicles come with tinted windows as standard
So we have to pay to have them replaced
Why?

Wirral council is the only licensing authority to have this rule, yet they allow drivers licenced with other councils to work Wirral council area.

It is getting harder to find vehicles without tints, and the additional cost to replace is very expensive.

Most modern cars leave the factory with rear tinted windows ,this make finding a car with clear glass very hard or the glass needs to be changed the cost is £1/£2k depending on make model, an expense that many can't afford

I think this is good for passenger safety, especially for lone riders.

Most New cars come with window tints as std... other councils allow these tints and are allowed to work in wirral. So i think it's a bit costly and unfair on wbc plated vehicles. When other councils allow it.

Most modern cars do have some sort of tint on them. Many private hire drivers are striving to improve their car and make them more top end . This is a dated rule, and many drivers are now going to Sefton, Knowsley, Wolverhampton and Cheshire West, to gain a plate license is due to Wirral Borough councils failure to review this

Difficult to find vehicles without window tint and costly to change and if changed insurance issues as it is a modified vehicle

Most new vehicles have tinted glass now, as part of the eco drive. Any executive vehicles will be a struggle to find one without tints. If it's factory spec glass it should be allowed

Limitations on vehicle choice and cost is affected by this current requirement. I am not aware of any increase in safety concerns from other councils who allow tints

I believe that factory fitted should be acceptable. WBC have not provided any evidence to support their belief that untinted windows help prevent crime. In contrast to police reports saying that window tints makes no difference to crime levels or safeguarding. Tinted rear windows are 'the norm' nowadays so finding suitable vehicles is becoming more difficult. Some drivers buy vehicles with finance and not all finance companies will allow the modification of their vehicles. There is also the the question as to whether changing the glass changes the integrity of the vehicle.

As 99% of the car cone with factory tinted windows it's hard to find one with no tinted windows and Wirral it's the only council with this requirement as the other in Merseyside don't have it

You allow other taxi's from outside the region to operate on the wirral and they do meet this requirement ,no issue with drivers from other areas but need adhere to same rules

You can not buy new electric vehicle now with out tinted glass and it costs between £600 to £800 to replace with clear glass

No because most new cars these days have window tint. It's very hard to find a car without it. And the cost to change the windows is expensive and just another expense we don't need.

I think this is an unfair rule, most modern cars are made with tinted windows & to request none tinted comes at a higher price.

Also your allowing vehicles from other licensing authorities to work Wirral systems that have tinted windows so it should be one rule for all or none at all

Sefton don't.

Now a days most of cars comes factory fitted tint windows, make us spend more to look for replacement, in some cases it cost £1500-3000

Most cars under 10 years come with manufacturers window tint is hard and costly to have this replaced and unfair

This policy is a farce that puts WBC badged drivers at a disadvantage compared to out of town drivers that are allowed to work the area with new vehicles that have tints but are plated outside of the area where there is no such a regulation. I have wanted to purchase a new vehicle for almost four years but have not done so because I refuse to pay upwards of 25k for a new vehicle only to then have to pay an additional circa 2k to have the factory fitted tints replaced with clear glass, clear glass that you cannot see through in the dark and therefore is no different to tinted glass.

Makes no sense at all this is why most of the drivers I know have moved to different licensing areas but still work Wirral

Vast majority of newer cars come with tints as standard, which means an additional cost of up to £1000 for the driver to hit WBC compliance. You could allow tints on the basis CCTV is installed.

It is difficult to find a vehicle on the market that meets the requirements. It cost me £1400 to change the tinted windows.

A lot of new vehicles are coming factory fitted tinted windows making drivers get these removed is a disgrace or if it has to be done then the council should be paying for this to be done. Some vehicles are being used to private work I.E personal chauffeur work and need to have the tinted windows and should be able to get as darker tints on the windows as required.

The window tint rule from WBC in my opinion is massively outdated and makes no sense. The reasons are as follows.

The main operators on the Wirral have licensed drivers from neighbouring councils working their systems. This in turn results in 100% of said drivers not facing the same limitations when choosing a suitable vehicle to us as a PHV. Not only is this unfair for Wirral licensed drivers but is also inconsistent for passengers. A passenger can book a PHV vehicle via a Wirral operator and may be greeted with an out of town plated vehicle with privacy glass.

Other licensing authorities around us are allowing it....again if you don't change drivers will get licenced and plated elsewhere eventually costing Wirral council revenue.

The Wirral is currently getting overrun with plates from all different areas due to this rule. I would go as far as saying you see more Sefton plates on the Wirral than you do Wirral plates now. You see less and less smarter cars on the road due to this rule as most cars now have them factory fitted. The Wirral council should want more decent cars on the road and that would 100% happen if this rule is changed! It infuriates many many drivers.

Majority of cars now have window tints, so we will either have no cars or have to pay out thousands to have the windows replaced

Tint should be relaxed. With new cars, tint is standard on the better models and expensive to change. Newer electric cars come with tint as standard in most cases and helps reduce the need for heaters etc thus getting better range on the EV. Drivers will not change to EV or Hybrids unless we can have tints due to cost

I believe that as long as tinted glass is within the law and factory fitted then it should be acceptable for Private Hire Vehicles.

Taxi drivers are now facing trouble purchasing new cars as most new cars come with privacy glass, you can get a taxi badge with cheshire or Sefton and still work on the Wirral with tints so makes a mockery of the rule, I have put a brand new car on the road at a cost of £44000, if I went for the model up to what I have got (which is the one I wanted) it would have cost an additional £2500 to change the glass.

Drivers are trying to put newer and better cars on the road and wbc seem to block this from happening as not everyone can afford to change the glass.

Absolute nonsense you have other vehicle operators working Wirral areas and Wirral firms with tinted windows the Wirral driver has to spend more money again

Rule always seemed to me to restrict an executive vehicle offer to consumers.

Window tints shouldn't really be a councils problem, it should be taken up with the car manufacturers, until then it is not right a driver has to spend possibly thousands of pounds to replace perfectly good windows. It is now simply cheaper to take an entire new test in a different district (Sefton Knowsley Wolverhampton etc) and work for the same company than to spend a stupid amount of money to replace windows to obtain a WBC license

Every other council around us allows window tints. I understand the reasoning by Wirral council for not allowing tints, but why not allow tints and have all vehicles with cctv. That being said every other council in surrounding areas has tints, so a Liverpool/sefton registered car can work a wirral firm with tints whereas a wirral plated car working the same company cannot. That's not just bizarre, it's stupid! Plus window tinting keep passengers cool in

summer, reduces amount of air con needed, saves fuel and saves the Planet.

I think we should allow window tints, it gives the customers more privacy and help health benefits, window tints block 99% of the suns harmful UV rays.

It's hard trying to find a vehicle that does not have tinted windows and most new cars come with them and as we are trying to go carbon neutral

Again some drivers can buy cars cheaper but the car has tinted windows so restricting them

It is almost impossible to find a large new vehicle that does not have tinted windows. Yet again all surrounding councils allow tinted windows. New vehicles are fitted with tinted windows as an eco fixture.

The most ridiculous rule ever.. nearly every top model car comes with tint .. this rule is now hampering the car a badge holder can purchase if not wanting the extra cost of needlessly replacing all windows...easier and cheaper to change license council without this rule .. which I am in no doubt WBC are aware is happening already

If vehicles are supplied with tints by manufacturers then tints should be allowed. People will not buy new vehicles which then causes older vehicles on the road

Other licensing authorities allow full tints or at least 25% and also newer cars have tints as standard.

It becomes really expensive when replacing a car and you have to replace the windows.

Drivers are going to other licensing authorities as they allow tints.

All of new vehicles tinted windows made by factory fitted, so if anyone needs to change for council, they can't do it, its big problem. So I think tinted windows not problem, also others council allowed

Allow 70%

Most vehicles comes with tinted windows and it cost a lot of money to get them removed which is why lot of drivers are getting badges from other councils, having factory fitted standard windows does not compromise passenger's safety at all

Newer vehicles come with factory fitted tinted windows , these should be allowed

Almost all new cars comes with company fitted tinted windows nowadays. Council should allow company fitted tinted window

So many modern cars come complete with tinted windows which enhances comfort for driver and passenger and should be allowed in my opinion.

This is an unfair cost to business and severely restricts the ability to buy high specification models without having to pay for the removal of privacy glass. My current car which I bought new, I was unable to purchase the highest specification model as it came with privacy and that would have cost me significant money to replace all the glass to meet current tint specifications. Furthermore, if a driver is forced to replace privacy glass to buy their preferred choice of vehicle then the carbon footprint left by changing windows is going to impact net zero. Vehicle costs have soared. My model was £369/mth when purchased. The exact same model will now cost just over £600/mth. Many councils have reversed this requirement in recent years to ease the burden of costs and to ease the lack of availability in cars without tinted windows.

I am also aware as an engineer that tinted windows will be used heavily in electric cars to help facilitate air conditioning performance and to reduce UV heating of the internal airspace of the vehicle which will help to conserve battery power and thus energy consumption.

It is an unnecessary added cost to PH

Drivers, as most cars come as standard manufacturers tinted windows,

Expecting Wirral council will keep a uniformity with other councils in the Liverpool City Region. Hope at least in Liverpool city region all councils will follow the same policy. A lot of other councils' vehicles with tinted glass operating in the boundaries of Wirral council.

Every time we buy a new car it costs us lots of money to change the windows. That's why many drivers are saying they're moving to other councils so they can have tinted windows. So I hope you can remove that load for tinted windows.

I really don't understand this reasoning, as other authority plates whom are working on the Wirral have & are allowed tinted windows which exceed 70%. Even to buy a new vehicle the majority come already fitted with tinted windows as standard.

Drivers are getting licenced in other areas (Sefton) and working the Wirral because of this and vehicle age policy

Most vehicles come with factory fitted tint as standard. These vehicles are obviously road legal.

For me, cost of living and cost of vehicles are rising, if the legal requirements by law are set we should be able to comply with that law.

We should be able to buy a vehicle with factory tint on all windows and not be restricted by a rule that only we locally have to abide by,

Today's manufacturers fit tinted glass to rear windows. To help stop UVA / UVB rays entering rear of vehicle. This helps to keep people safe from harmful rays.

It's a ridiculous requirement, which causes drivers to change to other councils to get better quality cars.. as far as safeguarding goes it might cause drivers to be less vigilant due to resentment. The driver MUST be trusted to act on and report any suspicions. Many

other councils are changing this idiotic and pointless requirement. Privacy glass has no beneficial impact on safety

Newer cars have a tint

Ridiculous rule if factory fitted it should be allowed I've recently bought a brand new car and the difficulty trying to find one without tints was Ridiculous

when a vehicle is built by the manufacturer it comes with M1 approval then if converted to a Hackney it has a secondary approval they are fitted with slight tinted glass as enviromentally safe this also helps retain battery life of new electric vehicles all other local authorities allow manufactures specification except Wirral which is crazy as a result drivers cant afford upto £3000 to change glass to clear. Drivers are now taking there badges and licencing vehicles in different councils ie Sefton/Liverpool,Knowsley even Wolverhampton to safe the cost of this crazy measure also means Wirral loose plate and badge fee we end up with vehicles of which WBC has no juresdiction over

Most vehicles now are manufactured tinted and this law is very unreasonable. I have not seen in any other council such law.

This rule restricts the amount of cars available to buy and most of the time cars with easy to clean leather seats come with privacy glass in the rear windows.

Lot of cars now have tinted windows, I can never understand why Wirral council doesn't allow it. Every other council in the world allows it.

There are cars working on the Wirral from as far as Wolverhampton,Liverpool,Sefton, Chester Uber all these cars have tinted windows and you say you can do nothing about this and that the police advised you not to allow any taxis to have tinted windows because you can not see in the back ,has there been a large number of drivers on the Wirral in the last couple of years convicted of rape or sexual assault drug dealing .90% of cars now have tinted windows including the police cars yet you are saying drivers on the Wirral can not be trusted .The police in all these other places have not told there councils to do the same.Does this mean that the police here are saying that taxi driver and Hackney drivers are the main people on the Wirral braking the law. And if so where is there proof and why has no one heard or seen any of this in the news.

If the wirral council allowing drivers from other council using the tinted window vehicle and working on the wirral than why is the rules are only for wirral drivers.

Most brand new cars now windows are tinted as standard so as long as not breaking any laws should be ok

It's good enough for other councils to approve tinted windows so Wirral should do the same. It's nearly impossible to buy a new or nearly new car that hasn't got tinted windows. I had to pay £850 to change the windows of my current car..

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find cars without factory fitted tinted windows. Generally the cars that do have clear windows are the base models. We all spend a lot of hours in our cars and deserve to have the choice of a luxury model without having to spend in the region of an extra £1000 to change the window glass. Sefton and Ellesmere Port plated vehicles are allowed tinted windows and work for Wirral taxi companies so the ruling no longer has any meaning.

More research and better explanation is required by the council why they pursue this policy. Is it contrary to manufacturers' specifications? What is the police opinion etc

I drive PHV for Sefton, I have more options to buy cars.
Most new cars come with window tint.

I really don't understand the requirement for the 70% light from Wirral council, as a driver it would benefit us if this was scrapped for many of reasons.

If we was to do higher end work then the executive passenger would prefer window tints for privacy.

Window tints block heat entering the vehicle which then would mean air con wasn't used as much, this would then lower the emissions produced by the vehicle.

Most new cars that are suitable to be used as a private hire come as standard with tinted windows, which again, is yet another cost to the driver to have all the glass replaced on the vehicle before it can be tinted.

And lastly I know a lot of drivers have moved to another council to be plated because of this requirement so that must have reduced income for Wirral council as they have lost all the fees from them drivers but it also means that them drivers are still working on the Wirral with tinted windows so it's unfair that just because they are with another council they can get away with working on the Wirral with tinted windows.

If you continue with this policy you will lose drivers, the safety glass is there to withhold heat in the vehicle and lower CO2 and keep the vehicle cooler in the summer to prevent air conditioning. Asking for M1 approval and then changing the vehicle of its M1 status is not affordable and adds to the cost of the vehicle which drivers are already struggling with. The policy is not possible to continue in this vein.

rules should be equal for all the vehicles not only taxis.

Most manufacturers tint nearly all vehicles, restricting us as to what vehicles we can choose.

Other local councils allow windows tints

Every other council in Merseyside allows tints. WBC is losing drivers who get badged elsewhere to get around this.

It is very difficult to source a vehicle without tinted glass. This has been a trend from the manufacturers due to the advent of air conditioning being efficient in such vehicles. It just creates a difficulty to replace vehicles , at present, on the Wirral.

Should allow factory fitted tinted windows as it cost me £1000 to change to clear

Most cars now a days come with tinted windows
And if we replaced new windows it's cost more money

That is absolutely wrong as Wirral Council maintain this but yet allow other Council vehicles with tinted windows.
As for tinted windows it's more ideal for passenger safety.

This is putting pressure on drivers when looking for a new car a 2000 bill for changing windows is unfair,
There is a lot of talk of many drivers jumping ship to sefton because of this one reason

The rear window tinting should be increased to allow more protection for passengers from exposure to the sun

Pretty much all new cars are being made with tinted windows now to protect the interiors and protect the passengers from harmful UVA rays to replace these can add up to £2000 to the cost of the car adding more costs to the driver in times of financial crisis again by not allowing you are discriminating against all drivers licenced with you as you allow drivers from other boroughs to work in the area with tinted windows and again being punished for putting money in to our local council if this is not remove the possibility of me going to another borough to be licenced if I can't find a car without tints is guaranteed

I don't this is a bad option in regards to requirements but my opinion on this is that vehicles come out of the factory with certain tint on vehicles and that is what is stock so I think there should be a little bit more leeway for this.

I think with alot of cross county lines inplace for safety we should keep somethings in place, Bus myself I only do Airports Transfer and also corporate travel, were some of my customers like the idea of tint so they cannot be seen when travelling.

I can't believe I had to go to panel to approve my tint's because I have high profile passengers who don't want to be recognised going for cancer treatment yet I can be badged and plated in Seton, Knowsley, Chester and work for the Biggest taxi firm operating on the Wirral and have a car over 10yrs and have privacy glass! It doesn't make any sense!

If a car comes off the production line with rear privacy glass we should be able to plate the vehicle with factory tinted windows. If it's after market tints shouldn't be aloud

I think as long as the uk spec vehicle leaves the factory with rear tints or privacy glass should be passed as it is not breaking the law

This is ancient all other borders and licensing committed allow privacy glass in taxis and this needs addressing quickly Wirral council MOT stations and drivers are losing a lot of revenue as new cars and buses come with tinted glass and it is driving more and more drivers taking out Liverpool Sefton and Wolverhampton badges to get round this therefore you are limiting your ability to control numbers working in and around Wirral we are really struggling with this please have common sense and allow privacy glass without us solely doing business transfers

Can register under different council and still use for Wirral based companies

This MUST change. Cars are very rarely made with clear glass anymore. Making drivers pay thousands to change glass is ridiculous. The factory fitted tinted glass is standard on almost every car these days. Get in line with all other Merseyside Councils!

This is a bad decision that makes it difficult for drivers when replacing their cars as a lot of cars come with tinted windows as standard. Carrying on with this policy will push drivers to use neighbouring councils to licence their vehicles which in turn loses revenue for wirral licensing department and wirral mot stations.

Most modern cars come with window tints as standard. It limits what vehicles are available to wirral drivers. Also local authorities surrounding wirral have drivers working Wirral with no tints. This puts local drivers at a financial disadvantage to other drivers surrounding them. I know some drivers have and some in the process of getting licenced at Sefton council because of this issue.

It's a silly requirement and not practical on new cars.

An outdated policy as high number of modern cars have tinted windows....what is the purpose of the rule how does it improve the safety or comfort of passengers I can't think of any reason to have the rule in the 1st place

All new cars come with tinted windows so your making drivers pick an older car or go to another council for their licence

Given that the Department of Transport considers that licensing authorities should not require the removal of windows rear of the B-pillar if they have a minimum light transmission of 30% or above, I am at a loss to understand why Wirral Council persist with this regulation. If the policy is maintained on a 'safeguarding' basis, then it should be recognised that any vehicle window that is factory-fitted is already complying with pre-existing laws around tinting which are proportionate in keeping individuals safe.

A second consideration is that the majority of taxi licensing authorities adjacent to Wirral do not insist on this regulation, instead allowing manufacturer's factory-fitted windows to be permitted. This inconsistency is a travesty, given that a vehicle and driver can be registered in Sefton (for example) but trade on the Wirral. Wirral Council are losing control of licensing a Wirral-based driver and vehicle, and, just as importantly, driving revenue out of Wirral to surrounding areas.

The act of replacing manufacturer's factory-fitted tinted windows can be interpreted as an act of modification to the vehicle in question, this could potentially render the vehicle uninsurable amongst certain insurance companies who do not allow for any vehicle modification to be carried out. There is a possibility that, there are a number of vehicles licensed by Wirral Council, which have been modified at the behest of the Council, currently in use which have invalid insurance if the modification has not been declared by the driver.

Furthermore, as vehicle manufacturers develop more awareness for the potential harm all vehicles cause to the climate, the prevalence of manufacturer's factory-fitted tinted windows becomes more common-place, by maintaining this policy, Wirral Council are effectively diminishing the stock of vehicles which can be utilised as PHVs and forcing drivers to utilise less climate friendly vehicles. From a personal point of view, I am currently considering upgrading my vehicle to a hybrid model, but I am unable to identify any suitable vehicle, which is an estate model, that does not come with manufacturer's factory-fitted tinted windows. Effectively I am being pushed to either register a new vehicle elsewhere outside the Borough or compromise and accept purchasing a less environmentally conscious vehicle.

Many new cars come with tinted glass as standard also other councils allow them

I believe it should be upto the driver if they want window tint or not

Other councils don't have this rule so a lot of drivers are going to them for their licence because of this, that's why there is so many Sefton plates on the Wirral, the council are losing out on licence fees because of this rule

Just adding more cost to drivers

How is it safe for people of Wirral when vehicle with the tinted windows from LCC, Sefton and Knowsley comes and work with our local firms? I think if that's the case then Wirral should not allow vehicle to be used in the area with tinted windows regardless of authority

I feel slightly tinted windows are adequate when carrying children & elderly. Especially during Summer months & even this time of year in winter when the sun is very low. Also I have found when purchasing new cars from a specialist taxi company, windows already come tinted which prevents being able to purchase them due to the Wirral rule.

Manufacturing standards of vehicles should be taken into account.

Most top of range vehicles now come with factory fitted tints to the rear glass the car is our place of work and top of range cars are better for driver and passenger alike most other councils allow this that's why so many drivers are leaving g WBC in favour of other licencing authorities

Most of new vehicles sold as factory fitted tinted windows so if the council doesn't accept that drivers have issues finding it

I think Private Hire Vehicles should be allowed tints because most new vehicles and decent spec vehicles come with tinted windows.

If you buy a new car that has factory tinted windows that means you have to pay more to get none tinted windows put in

All new cars come with rear tint windows and it's very difficult to source cars without tinted windows

When looking for cars this makes finding a suitable vehicle very difficult.

No as most new vehicles have rear tints that's why I am doing the Sefton badge

No because this law is baseless, never seen any other council do that , most cars are now manufactured tinted

Many vehicles come with a standard different to that of the council, this then costs more money to get different windows put in.

Because most cars come from the factory with tinted windows already done

Many vehicles are fitted as standard with tinted rear windows limiting the choice of vehicle you can use to change them to clear is very expensive

I'm aware the reason the owners are struggling in Wirral is because the more expensive cars are fitted with tinted windows and they are restricted to cheaper models. If the council want higher end cars then the rule needs to change or keep the drivers buying cheaper cars.

Tint levels should not apply to rear windows - makes no sense at all and is certainly not the norm nationally

As a driver for wirral for over 30years I think this is one of the most ridiculous rules implemented in recent years in the executive marked audi,bmw,mercedes 90% of these vehicles are factory fitted with this Glass aswell as many electric cars when these vehicles are as safe as any it would make more sence to stop plating vehicles that can't fit folding

wheelchairs or walkers.many drivers are leaving to other councils at a loss of revenue to wirral Council s shorts sighted rules. Majority of the public just want a clean comfortable vehicle to travel in I personally have used a vehicle with this glass for 18years before this ruling and not one customer has ever complained or even mention it. You need to start play the same game as other councils I.e get rid of front plate no use what so ever just extra cost to doing the job as other councils still use are roads bus lanes etc with no front plate . When I started S a driver in the early 90s wirral council licencing was much better run and more equal to all others I feel we are penalised with what vehicle we can use make or model should not matter providing it is large enough to carry out the requirements needed.

Drivers are getting licensed outside the Wirral to avoid ridiculous policies such as this, resulting in other areas benefitting from the Wirral economy.

I think that the tints on windows should be allowed as myself who drives a 9 seater Mercedes tourer with no drop glass in the rear of the vehicle suffer with the sun and heat. I also have lost corporate work due to the fact that I cannot provide privacy for corporate clients. It is uncomfortable for passengers in the rear. Also many new vehicles don't offer clear glass as an option. Or added cost to have that option

There is hardly any new card left on the market that don't have window tint. Lots of cars working the Wirral now are not Wirral plated and don't need to worry about window tints or age of the vehicle. It's a very unfair playing field.

There no reason for it. it just put the driver in alot of stress to find car as most of the cars now come with tinted windows and alot of driver now going to deferent council to avoid that

For the safety of both the passengers and the driver and should be applied across the Liverpool City Region

It's difficult to change glass
Cost lots of money for nothing
I have 3 pairs of glasses at my attic
If the council needed them for nothing
Cost me over£3000
For what
Scandulas
Should same as others council

Factory fitted windows should be allowed

There is not many tintless cars available on the market. Most of them are factory fitted. Also sefton, knowsly, Liverpool all accept tinted window and they are working on the Wirral for the same company so why not Wirral cousin approve tinted windows ?

The rear passenger windows should be allowed the factory tinted level for that car. If this means the car comes with privacy glass then it should be allowed. You can't really get near

clear glass anymore and the cost of removing the glass is just unacceptable. Plus surely this would be classed as vehicle modification which you aren't supposed to allow. The rear passenger windows should be allowed the factory tinted level for that car. If this means the car comes with privacy glass then it should be allowed. You can't really get near clear glass anymore and the cost of removing the glass is just unacceptable. Plus surely this would be classed as vehicle modification which you aren't supposed to allow.

For normal private hire I would potentially agree but for school minibuses I have spent a considerable amount of money changing windows that are tinted to clear in order to comply with licensing criteria but in our work of transporting children from home to school for Wirral I believe a level of tinted windows can sometimes be a help for some passengers.

When vehicles have factory fitted from new they should be allowed. Also if they are more of MPV type or chauffeur vehicle

Most modern vehicles are fitted with privacy glass, also private drivers use their car for personal use

Manufacturers produce most vehicles with Sun Protection glass nowadays this definitely provides adults and children sitting in the rear of a vehicle you can clearly see both inside out outside in my opinion this is a benefit to my clients. I would also be against any driver who retrofits non standard window tinting using the incorrect tint. Sun Protect is a must have especially for children.

In many other councils there are no such restrictions

Most modern cars have rear tinted windows. It is all extra cost to the drivers to have them changed to clear windows. If the government allow manufacturers to legally fit tinted then there should be no reason to change them

Currently most vehicles have tinted rear glass. This WBC requirement makes sourcing new vehicles extremely hard especially if you require an automatic. So many drivers are now plating cars in Liverpool causing WBC to lose 10s of thousands of pounds per year in lost revenue. With at least another 20% of current WBCplated drivers looking to move to Liverpool in the near future including myself as it is near impossible to find an automatic vehicle that meets these requirements.

Where is the evidence to support that window tints cause an issue for the passengers

I think the UK standards agency and car manufacturers know more about tinting than Wirral Council. UK law should be followed.

Factory fitted tinted window should be allowed, most new vehicles have standard factory fitted tinted windows, which cost thousands of pounds to replace, and having factory fitted tinted windows does not compromise safety at all, licence holders from other councils are working here in Wirral with tinted windows, we believe it is unfair on Wirral licence holders.

Should be allowed to use tinted glass.

The licencing are limiting drivers to certain cars they can get, other councils dont have this rule, also the council must be losing revenue as driver are going to other boroughs

I'm at the point now. Looking for a vehicle to use. Most vehicles now have a slight tint on the rear from the front. An the cost to replace these windows is massive. Thousands.. yet other vehicles registered in other councils . (which there is a hell of a lot of them on the Wirral) are driving about with tinted windows. Seems totally unfair an should be allowed, all cars used on Wirral roads should obied by the same rules. I'd say 70% for the front an 50% for the back would be reasonable.

Most premium models of cars, include tints as standard, if you want to buy a higher spec car ,you can't

Don't think tinted windows should make any difference....so long as the car is safe and legal it should be OK..

As all new cars have a tint on the windows this needs to be changed

Many new vehicles now come with tint in rear windows as standard, WBC private hire drivers should not be restricted or forced to spend thousands of pounds having to change the glass on new vehicles especially as half the vehicles working on the Wirral are now registered in other councils & don't have these restrictions . If this doesn't change I'm seriously considering getting a badge & plate for another borough council & then continue to work the Wirral.

tinted windows can create a better driving environment, keeping glare from the sun lower than regular glass and keeping the interior temperature cooler. Both of these advantages contribute to an improved driving experience, with greater driver visibility and comfort.

It is basically discriminating against drivers buying or hiring a lot of modern vehicles. Tinted windows are legal and as such have to pass initial standards as written in law

Question 18: In addition to the legal requirement Wirral Council require Hackney Carriage Vehicles to allow at least 70% of light to pass through all other windows. This means that the maximum tint level permitted for these windows is 30%. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
Only if factory fitted
I think this rule is outrageous 90 percent of cars made today come with tinted windows and the cost of getting them changed is in the thousands and is not fair when you can just go to sefton council and get badge there and plate the car with tints and work on the wirral so wirral are losing drivers and not bothered about it
This is a safety aspect for both passenger and driver. Is it enforced
Same as comment above.
As above.
For the same reason as previous.
To ensure passengers or potential passengers feel safer.
I think it should probably be higher - visibility is very important for a driver, and may also make passengers feel safer
Same as above, I wouldn't want a cab with tinted windows
This lets people see in and out the vehicle as well as the driver having more light
Yes as these are designed as taxis
See above
As per previous.
passengers need to feel safe in vehicle and able to see clearly out of the windows and inside
It should be the same as normal cars as the safety implications are the same!
I wouldn't feel comfortable in a cab with darkened windows
All windows should be clear
As above



Licence Holder Comments

Other councils don't

Its the expense of having to change tinted windows in new vehicle

Same as above relating to private hire vehicles.

As factory fitted

Hackneys don't come with privacy glass anyway

See answer 20

Most vehicles have tinted glass, hackneys also have disabled passengers on board in wheelchairs etc who have said they often get people looking in at them while stationary

I am not aware of any increase in safety concerns from other councils who allow tints

For the same reason I don't agree with it for private hire vehicles

Same like private hire

It shouldn't matter if the windows are tinted.

As above (Private Hire)

I currently transport young adults to college in my Hackney cab, they are uneasy with people looking at them , when stopped at traffic lights and junctions, I think tints would make my current young adults journey more pleasant and without any further stress.
During the summer tints will help keep my vehicle cooler, air con uses a diesel pump which adds to the emissions the vehicle emits .

****Enhancing Airport Private Hire Operations with Tinted Windows: A Comprehensive Analysis****

The implementation of tinted windows in airport transfers has emerged as a prevalent practice, driven by a multitude of advantages that elevate the overall taxi experience for both drivers and passengers. This comprehensive analysis delves into the multifaceted benefits of tinted windows, underscoring their positive impact on safety, comfort, privacy, UV protection, vehicle longevity, and energy efficiency.

****Safety:****

Tinted windows play a pivotal role in enhancing driver visibility, particularly during harsh daylight conditions. By effectively reducing glare, tinted windows enable drivers to navigate the road with greater clarity, thereby minimizing the risk of accidents.

****Comfort:****

Tinted windows effectively shield the taxi's interior from excessive heat gain, contributing to a more comfortable and refreshing atmosphere for both passengers and drivers, especially during hot weather.

****Privacy:****

The presence of tinted windows safeguards passengers' privacy by creating an opaque barrier that obstructs the view from outside the taxi. This feature is particularly valuable for individuals carrying valuables or traveling with minors.

****UV Protection:****

Tinted windows serve as a protective shield against harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays emitted by the sun. This shielding effect safeguards passengers' skin from sunburn and premature aging, promoting overall well-being. Especially towards safety of children in car seats in iso fixing. Also on airport transfer, we are on motorways for long periods, with sun glaring through same window for long time scales.

****Vehicle Longevity:****

By mitigating the intensity of UV radiation, tinted windows help to preserve the interior of the taxi from fading and damage caused by prolonged exposure to sunlight. This proactive measure extends the vehicle's lifespan and reduces the need for frequent replacements.

****Energy Efficiency:****

Tinted windows play a crucial role in enhancing a taxi's energy efficiency by minimizing heat transfer into the vehicle's interior. This reduction in heat gain translates into lower fuel consumption and reduced emissions, promoting environmental sustainability.

****Aesthetic Appeal:****

The incorporation of tinted windows lends a stylish and professional appearance to taxis, enhancing their visual appeal and attracting potential customers. This aesthetic enhancement contributes to a positive brand image and elevates the overall taxi experience. Businesses requesting Mercedes & top spec vehicles have tints, which regulations stunts our growth. Knowsley, liverpool, sefton, cheshire all allow tints, which means losing business & contracts.

****Conclusion:****

The adoption of tinted windows in private hire airport transfers represents a sound investment that yields a multitude of benefits for both airport operators and their customers/clients. By prioritizing safety, comfort, privacy, UV protection, vehicle longevity, energy efficiency, and aesthetic appeal, tinted windows elevate the taxi experience to a higher standard, fostering a positive reputation and contributing to the industry's growth and success.

I also suggest a separate regulation just for airport transfer companies as tints aren't required for local taxis, working for local taxi companies around town, but 100% benefits cross country, business & airport drivers & operators.

Tint should be relaxed. With new cars, tint is standard on the better models and expensive to change. Newer electric cars come with tint as standard in most cases and helps reduce the need for heaters etc thus getting better range on the EV. Drivers will not change to EV or Hybrids unless we can have tints due to cost

As above for Private Hire Vehicles.

Same as above

Same as private hire questioning

Window tints shouldn't really be a councils problem, it should be taken up with the car manufacturers, until then it is not right a driver has to spend possibly thousands of pounds to replace perfectly good windows. It is now simply cheaper to take an entire new test in a different district (Sefton Knowsley Wolverhampton etc) and work for the same company than to spend a stupid amount of money to replace windows to obtain a WBC license

Although Wirral hacks are limited to work Wirral only and no other hackneys are allowed to work Wirral, they can still use a ph system. This puts them in same category as a private hire car, tinted windows keeps passengers cool in summer saves fuel, saves the planet. I understand why Wirral have banned tints but why not introduce cctv instead.

Most new vehicles come with tinted windows

Same as above.

All of new vehicles tinted windows made by factory fitted, so if anyone needs to change for council, they can't do it, its big problem. So I think tinted windows not problem, also others council allowed

Vehicles with factory fitted tint should be allowed

As above.Same question I think.

See answer 19

Council will follow the national policy and other near councils specially Liverpool city councils policy in this regard,

Most vehicles come with factory fitted tint as standard. These vehicles are obviously road legal.

again we should be able to buy any vehicle with factory fitted tinted windows, other vehicles that work the wirral are not restricted by our rules and have no issues

Should be same requirements as PHV

It's not a reasonable law

See answer 18

I think it should be scraped for private hire and Hackney for the reasons I have stated above.

as above for private hire

rules should be equal for all the vehicles not only taxis.

We require full advertising over the whole cab to help us financially.

Pretty much all new cars are being made with tinted windows now to protect the interiors and protect the passengers from harmful UVA rays to replace these can add up to £2000 to the cost of the car adding more costs to the driver in times of financial crisis again by not allowing you are discriminating against all drivers licenced with you as you allow drivers from other boroughs to work in the area with tinted windows and again being punished for putting money in to our local council if this is not remove the possibility of me going to another borough to be licenced if I can't find a car without tints is guaranteed

I think this should be increased following my comments in the last question

As above
Same as private hire. If it comes off the production line with tinted rear glass it should be aloud to pass the test
Can register in different area and still work on wirral
cars come with factory tints that's shouldn't be a problem
Factory fitted glass should NOT be replaced.
Again, this puts Wirral drivers at a disadvantage to other local authorities.
Silly requirement and serve's no practical perpas
As per my comments in Section 17 which can also relate to Hackney Carriage Vehicles.
Given they can pick straight up from street. No tint would be safer for drivers and passengers
Same as above
Taking the right to buy the type of vehicle away from the driver
As above, manufacturers standards should be considered
Again can make finding suitable vehicles difficult
No because this law is baseless, never seen any other council do that , most cars are now manufactured tinted
Pointless policy I have recently changed the windows in a Hackney cab at a cost of £2,500 , I couldn't do what private hire do and get licensed in another area so I had no alternative but to pay the cost, if vehicles can come in and pick the same passengers up as Wirral licensed drivers then they should abide by the same rules.. again this is discriminative to the Hackney driver.
No comment
As most new vehicles come with privacy glass as standard it's ridiculous that a driver has to rip that out to pass licensing
There no reason for it. it just put the driver in alot of stress to find car as most of the cars now come with tinted windows and alot of driver now going to deferent council to avoid that
As section 20
The rear passenger windows should be allowed the factory tinted level for that car. If this means the car comes with privacy glass then it should be allowed. You can't really get near clear glass anymore and the cost if removing the glass is just unacceptable. Plus surely this would be classed as vehicle modification which you aren't supposed to allow.
As in q. 16

Same answer as previous

Should be the same as a private hire vehicle they have there light to let people know if they have customers in or not.

As a Hackney , I would think it would be industry standard

As above most vehicles have tint now

As above.

As above

Step Height

Question 19: Do you think it is necessary for a Private Hire Vehicle with an entrance step height exceeding 38cm to have a fitted step or portable step?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
I wouldn't trust a portable step
If they are unable to get in to a private hire car then should request Hackney to keep the Hackney drivers driving and work
To enable those with limited mobility easier access
Also fitted with anti slip. The amount of times I have boarded and the step is either half torn and a trip hazard or has no anti slip ok at all
It helps for those with reduced mobility.
Make boarding easy and safer for all passengers
IT ASSISTS THOSE WITH MOBILITY DIFFICULTIES, BUT EASE OF ACCESS ISN'T JUST ABOUT STEP-UP HEIGHT, IT IS ALSO ABOUT HOW ELSE YOU CAN ENTER A VEHICLE, e.g., WHETHER YOU CAN USE A SHUFFLE BOARD TO GET OUT OF A WHEELCHAIR AND ONTO A CAR SEAT.
Private vehicle.
A fitted step would be more appropriate
Obviously to assist getting in or out of the vehicle.
All vehicles for use by the public should be adapted within reason to accommodate people with mobility difficulties.
To be inclusive and accessible as possible
Accessibility of taxis is important
Most of our service users have difficulties getting in and out of taxis
For some people 38cm is probably too high.
To make it easier for older people and young children to get in and out
Hackney carriage should be the vehicle offering thi ability
All passenger transport vehicles must be accessible for as wide a range of needs as possible.
not every body is fully mobile and needs help

For elderly, disabled or less mobile people, the step height is very important. My partner is disabled and I have in the past had to lift her up into hire vehicles where a step has not been available.

Portable step would be preferable to a fitted step

Licence Holder Comments

Basically yes

Private hire vehicles are restricted to available entrance space. If someone needs a step i assume they will struggle to gain access. Thereby they should order a hackney

Make easier for customers

A lot of people find it easier to get into a slightly higher vehicle from the the kerb

Some elderly and infirm passengers do struggle with the height.

Were would you store it, who's responsible if the fare slips off it, Are the council giving drivers public liability insurance to ensure where covered

I carried a portable step for a vehicle i used in the past

Safety.

If passengers reuire an easy access vehilce they can request one (low rider etc)

I don't think it makes a difference as some vehicles are low as well as high

38cm is more than a foot which for some maybe difficult to manage so some type of a step sounds practical.

Important for accessibility for individuals with restricted mobility.

Not everyone has long legs or can step up high steps, like disabled people, high vehicles need steps

Where are you ment to put the step as well as take wheel chairs or case

Continue

This will add problems to the driver and customer. Storage is an issue and if someone misses or falls off the step there will be issues.

PHV doesn't needs steps

This is a sensible requirement as many elderly and disabled customers may ask for a low vehicle as they are unable or stryggle to get up into the higher vehicles

Some passengers do need assistance to enter a vehicle thus this would help

Should be same as hackney steps

People dont step in if they have issues, they sit and draw legs in with or eithout help. A step should be the choice of driver

any assistance helps

It is essential to facilitate the elderly & the disabled to ingress and egress the vehicle

If a hack needs it a car should to
We have made a step that does not come away from the vehicle when the passengers are getting out, we appreciate that all vehicles are getting higher and harder to get in and out - i personally believe the 38 cm rule should be respected for passengers with difficulties walking and using sticks etc
customer can normally choose high or lower vehicle while booking.
Got to have the same laws for both
Easy enough to carry a caravan step in the boot
Spoken to a lot of drivers who drive kia sportage and not one passanger has asked for the step. It's just a expensive paper weight
Yes as we must cater for All passengers and we have many with poor mobility
I would keep this because this helps provide a better service for the customer using us as a public service vehicle
I think it is always important to carry a step to help my Customers
I agree this should stay as some passengers do require a step, although I don't think this step has to be fitted to the vehicle. A portable step should be available.
Makes it easier for older passengers
To assist passengers with walking difficulties
In my experience, passengers who experience difficulty entering / exiting the vehicle struggle more with lower seating as opposed to higher step heights. Those elderly with mobility issues tend to require almost lifting up from the seating as opposed to assistance stepping down. I do accept that there are individuals who will struggle with a higher step, therefore a portable step would be beneficial.
For safety
To aid less abled passengers passengers into the vehicle.
Drivers are trainer in assistance no need for a step, there are low riders a customer car request if the prefer.
Some private vehicles may be slightly higher than this, with the variety of vehicles available in a company, anyone needing a low vehicle can ask for one. On the reverse, I've seen people struggle with a lower car so a higher one would actually be of benefit to the.
Problem is who do you put the emphasis on when using a portable step the driver or passenger if he or she falls of the potable step as fiscally assisting somebody is no longer pro rata.



Again cross boarder hire allowed vehicles from outside the area without this rule and is forcing Wirral drivers to seek licenses in other areas and operate in Wirral which has an effect on the local economy

No step as my insurance company will not cover any accidents caused by passengers using the step. I do carry one to comply with council regulations but never use it. I always try to get close to the kerb for them to exit or enter

It will be good Idea for old people

Either step should be allowed as long as its safe.

15" is very high to a child or older person

Yes I think a small or elderly person would require one

A caravan portable step is fine

Question 20: Do you think it is necessary for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle with an entrance step height exceeding 38cm to have a fitted step or portable step?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
I wouldn't trust a portable step
As above.
Yes. Elderly, disable and wheel chair users. Who would not use private cabs.
A fitted step would be more appropriate
For the same reason as previously.
To be inclusive and accessible as possible
Accessibility of taxis is important
Most of our service users have difficulties getting in and out of taxis
Some people may find 38cm to be too high.
To make it easier for older people and young children to get in and out
38cm high should be the allowance on all Hackney Carriages
As per previous question.
not every body is fully mobile and needs help
For elderly, disabled or less mobile people, the step height is very important. My partner is disabled and I have in the past had to lift her up into hire vehicles where a step has not been available.
Accessibility
Portable step would be preferable to a fitted step
As above

Licence Holder Comments

It helps everyone

For customer

Some elderly and infirm passengers do struggle with the height

Safety

Making the entrance to the vehicle as easy as possible for all passengers, step is a big help

Hackneys doesnt allow for sitting directly from the door, you have to acually step into the vehicle so a step is needed

To aid entry.

As above for a Private Hire Vehicle.

Important for accessibility for individuals with restricted mobility.

High vehicles need steps to help elderly and disabled or small people

Most new hacks cater for tgis

Safe for people to get in

Continue

Some passengers do need assistance to enter a vehicle thus this would help

these vehicles are used by people who struggle with getting in private hire vehicles and need the additional steps to gain access

The nature of the vehicle make sitting and drawing legs in more of an issue

yes they need a step

see answer 22

people have limited choice at the Hackney rank.

Disability and age

As it is now.

Needed for more disability work wheelchairs ect

Yes as we must cater for All passengers and we have many with poor mobility

Agree this should remain.

As per my comments in Section 21 which can also relate to Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

For safety

No step customers aint shy in my experience if my vehicle is to high i let a lowr vehice take the job it isnt a issue

Any older or disabled people wouldn't be able to get in and out of the vehicle

Again cross boarder hire allowed vehicles from outside the area without this rule and is forcing Wirral drivers to seek licenses in other areas and operate in Wirral which has an effect on the local economy

It will be good Idea for old people

Either step should be allowed as long as its safe

As q. 20

Again industry standard , if they think its needed it will be included

A caravan portable step is fine

As above

Question 21: Where bench seats are fitted to the rear of Private Hire Vehicles the seat must be at least 48” wide (16” per rear-seat passenger) measured along the front of the seat. Do you think the Council should maintain this requirement?

Non-Licence Holder Comments
Passengers wouldn't be bothered if the back seat was smaller
If a car has four doors then should be able to be a taxi regardless of the size of the bench seat
TO ENSURE COMFORT AND SAFETY.
more comftable
In order to make it comfortable for the passengers.
To be inclusive and accessible as possible
Not sure about the dimensions, but plenty of room necessary
Size of genral popultion getting bigger so space required
people need space and its stop s a Vehicles being over loaded
Passengers should be comfortable and not cramped.
It's meant to carry people a smaller car is not practical



Licence Holder Comments

If not you would struggle with fitting lets say 4 rugby players getting in

Let's be honest, peoples arses are getting wider but there has to be a limit

As factory fitted.

For comfort of passengers

Safety and comfort.

Perhaps cars with smaller seat can be licened to carry 3 passengers, 1 in from and 2 in the rear, smaller cars with larger passengers are not suitable or comfortable, and often unable to access seatbelt.

As long as the car has 3 rear seats it should be considered suitable. There is a very small amount of jobs that require all 4 seats to be used, but cars with 3 seats regardless of width are fit for purpose.

To maintain a degree of comfort for passengers

Passengers need comfort.

Other neighbouring areas don't have to abide by this rule it helps with car buying

Taxis need to be big enough for an average person, I've seen corsas plated as private hire, that's a small car. Minimum should be medium sized car(focus,Astra,i30, golf) as a minimum

Cars now are bigger

Smaller vehicles if plated should be only plated for 3 passengers

If airlines can get away with it

Most of the time this is an ample amount of space

some vehicles are to small to be considered a private hire vehicle, I wouldn't want to get in a vehicle that is small and cramped.

Makes it more comfortable for passenger's.

NC

It works without any problems thus far.

Cars that can not seat 3 people in the back should not be licensed for 4 passengers and the driver

If you are allowing other council drivers to drive Toyota prius+ as a 6 seater than why different rule for the wirral drivers

This has been a condition for a number of years and further research is required to ensure that 16" is sufficient for the average adult.

A car comes with the rear seats designed for that vehicle

I think as long as three passengers can fit comfortably then any size seats should be considered.

i do believe that its important to preserve the passengers comfort however i think discretion is needed especially the market is moving into EVs and for vehicles to be fuel efficient or range in electric vehicles

So 3 passengers can sit comfortably

never had an issue as regarding this .because my cab is a six seater.

I assume this has been set so to make the position of the passenger comfortable and if that's the case i see no reason to change

Agree

All private hire seats need to be as wide as possible

Comfortable

It would appear common sense to me, in order to allow for passenger comfort, albeit, I'd be surprised if there are any vehicles currently manufactured by mainstream car makers which do not have rear seats consistent with these dimensions.

Cars have gotten bigger over the decades, most cars today(exluding super mini,s) reach this criteria, and people these days don,t seem to be geting any slimmer

This will keep a level of comfort for the passengers

Comfort of passengers must be upheld

Not every person is the same size

Additional Comments

Question 22: Additional Comments

Non-Licence Holder Comments

I think this rule is outrageous 90 percent of cars made today come with tinted windows and the cost of getting them changed is in the thousands and is not fair when you can just go to sefton council and get badge there and plate the car with tints and work on the wirral so wirral are losing drivers and not bothered about it

There is nothing mentioned on seat belts. This should be encouraged by an alarm or warning system for both drivers and passengers. Most cars have them as standard these days

We need more wheelchair accessible taxis. There isn't enough

Please more stringently monitor our taxi drivers. Use regular passport checks. Implement a maximum driving time so drivers don't work all day/night .Had to call police as one driver was felling asleep at wheel wirh me and my 70 year mother in the vehicle. Police advised him to get some rest! Please implement a time period for our safety, same as truck/lorry drivers have. Sone drivers gave other jobs (shops etc) and work all day then taxi all night. Swap cars and continue. Please have photo and licence checks complete and visible to passengers at all times. Make taxi companies responsible instead of 'our drivers are self employed'. Items left in vehicles are never returned to base as these peoplevare self employed. There is simply No governance or policy that controls behaviours and drivers can simply do what they want, as long as their vehicle is ok and meets requirements. Is this right for our safety and well being? Or is this a freedom to abuse and take advantage of innocent public? Please implement controls and spot checks. Please.

Don't really see the point to this survey. If the taxi has an MOT and is safe for 12 months then that should be good enough.

Any additional changes every 6 months will be passed on. If the cost increases people will stop using them, just like the 20mph limit, where the taxi driver has started to pass it onto their clients.

THIS SURVEY IS SIGNIFICANT FOR THE QUESTIONS IT DOESN'T ASK, AS MUCH AS FOR THOSE IT DOES ASK. WHY ARE YOU NOT ASKING ABOUT WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY? WE NEED TO MOVE TO A MIXED FLEET APPROACH FOR THE HCV FLEET - IN CONFORMITY WITH THE LATEST GOVERNMENT ADVICE, BECAUSE YOU ARE LOSING HCV DRIVERS DUE TO YOUR RIGID, ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL WAV POLICY. YOU ARE IGNORING THE NEEDS OF AMBULANT WHEELCHAIR USERS WHO WOULD PREFER TO TRAVEL WHILST NOT SAT IN THEIR WHEELCHAIRS.

THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS SURVEY THAT ASKS RESPONDENTS THEIR VIEWS ON LOW EMISSION VEHICLES.

In my view councillors should not be deciding if vehicles make the extended time rules. This should be done by VOSA or mot examiners. What mechanical knowledge do they have ?

I am concerned that maintaining the default 10-year age limit for vehicles causes taxi drivers too much inconvenience and unnecessary stress. We grant most requests for extensions anyway and the panels are a drain on council resources - officers' time as well as placing extra demands on the minority of councillors who are available for panels.

To be registered as a taxi driver and improve driving skills and safety for passengers and all road users, ALL DRIVERS (new and present) should have to pass an Advanced Driving Test, a Level 3 Bikeability test and sign a pledge to keep to speed limits and not to block viewpoints/pavements by parking on junctions/pavements. Professional drivers will then be up to date with the Highway Code (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>), be able to demonstrate exemplary driving skills, understand how to overtake people cycling safely, reduce intimidation due to not speeding over the speed limit, increase safety by not blocking viewpoints on junctions, enable pedestrians to be able to use pavements safely by not parking on pavements and be able to set a good example to all other road users. These measures would increase safety for ALL road users and also help to encourage/ enable more active travel to take place safely (in accordance with Wirral Councils policies on Climate Change and Sustainability).

Whilst I'm happy for vehicles to be used for longer, ultimately I would like to see the electrification of the taxi fleet as soon as possible. If a vehicle is kept longer I'd like to see a way to making sure that the driver's next vehicle is electric. Can we find a mechanism for this? Perhaps some funding support for drivers and rules in place to make sure we hit our Climate Strategy at Wirral Council (no petrol/diesel cars on Wirral roads by 2030)

The provision for taxis is abysmal during the school runs. It can often be difficult to arrange taxis for residents hospital appointments or trips out

Drivers should be incentivised to switch to zero or low emissions vehicles, particularly for use in residential areas. It's also very hard to find a taxi willing to take you back to the Wirral from Liverpool, so maybe the tunnel fees could be scrapped for taxis?

I don't use taxis very much and feel that I cannot really answer most of the questions.

I don't use these vehicles often but I do want to feel they are safe and comfortable to use.

Any regulations on hours drivers are allowed to work?

We need more ranks in appropriate places such as Hoylake and Heswall as many won't take people from there to Prenton.

The price of fares between the tunnels needs addressing its a disgrace that we have to pay the same fare for a 5 mile journey as we do for a longer journey if it wasn't through the tunnel.

yes/no answers to vehicle age doesn't really help when looking at vehicle emissions.

e.g.,

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone>

Petrol cars that meet the ULEZ standards are generally those first registered as new with the DVLA after 2005, although cars that meet the standards have been available since 2001

Diesel cars that meet the standards are generally those first registered with the DVLA as new after September 2015

Given the huge benefits that London has seen on air pollution, our Wirral Plan and our Air Pollution strategy, is it possible to include meeting ULEZ standards or similar as a licensing criteria or have different age standards for petrol/diesel?

I would be keen also to see how we can incorporate low carbon fuels (e.g., support for electric vehicles) into the licensing criteria.

safety and accessibility should be a priority

Drivers should be of smart appearance

I have stopped using Hackney Carriage Vehicles due to the excessive prices they charge. There must be a way of regulating what they charge as some will charge over £70 to transfer from Liverpool to Birkenhead. With a private hire such as Uber you know what your fare is upfront .I believe that a printed receipt with the taxi number should be given out on every fare to people to be able to register complaints against excessive fares that are being charged by Hackney drivers.

Licence Holder Comments

Stop cross border hire as you the council don't know who is working your borough safety is no 1 plus these out of towners don't know the area plus the public end up paying more because of this

Wirral council should amend rules and regulations to align with other local councils such as Liverpool city and, Cheshire West and Chester

I think the council do need to look at the tinted windows as extra expenses when buying new vehicles

The renewal process always seems time consuming. If it could be streamlined somehow or if you were able to apply online or even through an app would be beneficial and bring everything upto date.

Drivers are moving over to Sefton or Cheshire west as you can get a better vehicle for the job we do and more comfort when doing 10 hr daily shifts. Think Wirral Council need to Allow tints and anything the other authorities allow that work on the Wirral.

I feel as though Wirral council are dictating what type of work I can do with regards to window tints. I am never given executive jobs because most of these type of jobs require a tint. I feel as though my potential earnings are limited because of this. I would like to purchase an executive vehicle and will need to move my badge and plate to another council to allow me to do this

There appears to be an increase of Wolverhampton and Sefton taxis working on the Wirral, the standard and cleanliness of these taxis are not the same as wirral taxis. Is there any way of atopping them?

If the licensing rules keep alienating drivers and causing unnecessary expenses in replacement glass/excess mots etc more and more drivers will continue to license out of area and work for operators with several ops licenses. This will eventually delete all the hackney trade on Wirral and the majority of drivers

Wirrals current regulations severly affects drivers negativley in order to be over cautious.

I think you require more random checks carried out on Taxis that operate within the wirral area both driver and cars

I'm pleased that you're doing this survey because lots of drivers have moved over to Sefton because of your rules. I feel that this could be a step forward and I hope you look at Sefton rules which seem to be better for drivers.

Most of the rules and criteria pertaining to car age and mots are archaic and based on older cars that were more likely to deteriorate more quickly. Modern cars are far more robust, resilient and hold up much better over time, cosmetically and mechanically. These rules

should be done away with. Forcing drivers to shell out for new cars when their current cars are perfectly suitable just because they have passed a certain arbitrary age is ridiculous.

I think everyone should be governed by the same rules , you can't have one rule for Wirral drivers & one for other licensing authorities if their working for Wirral licensed operators

It would be nice to see taxi licensing official's visiting the ranks and or out with the Police stop checking for vehicle conditions and driver documentation

Wirral council are making it hard to get a car registered with them and also keep cars on the road and working just as they over a certain age its not fair on drivers trying to make a living.

Removing the tinted glass restriction for new vehicles would encourage drivers to renew their present vehicles which would help to modernise the present WBC plated taxi fleet and as a bonus be more environmental friendly in the process.

Really there should be a full overhaul of the ph and hacks on the Wirral. As all out of town plated do as they like if you went out on the street you would be shocked

2 main issues on this survey, vehicle age /tints. I fully believe we need to move with the times and other councils. If the car is safe and compliant age should be irrelevant. Tints 80% new cars come as standard which then puts an additional cost on the driver. Cctv should be fitted in all cars , and this come become mandatory/condition if tints are allowed. Ive noticed alot of drivers moving from WBC - to - LCC- Sefton for the 2 reasons above especially as they can work for uber/Argyle and Alpha with a liverpool badge/plate. Thanks.

Me personally I have the ok to not have my plates on the vehicle for the private work I do, there's guys I know who are Liverpool licensed who take take them on and off so they can work Uber and such like in quiet periods, I feel that Wirral should allow this aswell because it's causing me to loose out on money or the only option left is to settle another vehicle which is ridiculous and would be more of an outlay before making any money. I hope this can be looked at and considered being changed

Time for change or lots of valuable revenue will be lost.

I am a private hire operator doing business clients, cross country & airport transfers. I look to always update my vehicle & be competitive in pricing & contracts. It is getting more difficult to buy high spec/electric vehicles with no tints & still give that corporate look, that clients request. We advertise Mercedes upgrades, and with the vehicles getting more efficient to help with climate control all vehicles come with tints. So in past cannot buy top spec range thus losing out on work & contracts, restricting the growth of my company, because dont have vehicle they request & getting beating by liverpool, salford, knowley & cheshire operators because they are allowed.

for example i cant but A Electric Mercedes Vito Class Top Spec, Tints come as standard for climate control efficiency.

A change of rule/regulation or addition to help sole private hire operators who do business clients, cross country & airport transfer solely & not treated same as local taxis working for like of argyle satellite around town.

My thoughts are that Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles should be treated similarly.

Wbc need to drop the privacy glass rule it becomes a mockery that we can get a badge out of area and still work on the Wirral like out of town drivers can.

I have been a Hackney driver for wbc for 15 years the rules set by wirral have been challenging

I have seen over the last 5 years drivers leave for neighbouring authorities and still working for wirral private hire firms

I have asked my self on numerous occasions wonder how much wbc are loosing in licence and vehicle licence fees

Just 2 miles through the tunnel the rules are more relaxed

As for window tint etc

Harmonisation of licensing rules across the LCR should be on the agenda .

How rides are booked has changed. Radical reform is overdue and that should consider whether the distinction between HC and PH is still necessary.

it's not really beneficial in any way to obtain a WBC private hire license anymore, I'd say it's more of an inconvenience when coming to renew or grant first licenses to vehicles aswell as even obtaining your private hire badges there is zero benefit getting a WBC badge when the majority of people working here have other council plates for less hassle and money

More inspections are needed, not appointments at the solar campus where you can just not turn up. I know staffing is low but you need to get out more and spot check cars on the road.

Window tints need to be allowed, trying to buy an executive car for like £20-30k without tints is a nightmare and are very very rare.

Vehicle magnets can be a problem these days with plastic or aluminium doors, maybe a small sticker like Cheshire west use

On a positive note, the licencing staff at solar campus are brilliant people. Very helpful

Tinted glasses is on most new cars as you would like driver to go carbon neutral we can not do this as most evs and hybrid come with tinted glasses and when the open was on people

where asking for cars with tinted glass but they jobs went taxi from other areas as Wirral driver could not do them this not fair

The M O T station should have the last word on whether a car or cab is suitable for the public.

I work for Argyle Satellite Taxis, we have vehicles licensed from various Liverpool councils and Chester all working for the same company picking up the same passengers as myself from all over the wirral. But any wirral driver is penalised by wirral councils draconian rules. Please let's have a level playing field.

Personally I will get my license from another licensing authority when Wirral one is about to expire as they are a lot more flexible, save me a lot of money and hassle.

If Wirral can match Liverpool, Sefton or Cheshire West vehicle licensing conditions then I may renew it with Wirral.

Majority of the local drivers have already changed and more are going that way.

Why would I pay more than £1,500 to take tints off a car to get it licensed when it comes as standard with most cars?

Why would I stay with Wirral when other licensing authorities allow up to and more than 12 year old vehicles?

Why would I waste thousands of pounds when I could just go to another authority and get more flexibility and a lot less hassle?

I hope you really make the right decision because you're losing a lot of drivers renewing their licenses very fast.

All of car age should be over 15 or 20 years old allowed and car company factory fitted tinted windows should be allowed.

Amending tinted window and vehicle age limit rules will stop drivers from getting badges from other councils and will result in increased revenue from licensing fees

Cross border hiring has decimated the local drivers serving local communities element of the licensed taxi trade. We now have drivers from everywhere working neighbourhoods/communities that are not local them. I was a local Wallasey driver serving and looking after the people of Wallasey. Since Alpha's takeover I'm very rarely in Wallasey anymore. My experienced eyes and ears are sadly not able to help keep a watch in my local community anymore and I very rarely get a chance to serve them. Shame really, because that's what I always loved about this job.

Now a days it is noticed that a lot of other councils vehicles , most of them very old , uncleaned cars with tinted windows) working in Wirral council area . Vehicles s out side the Liverpool city region (Wolverhampton, Bolton, Salford and Warrington) also working in Wirral Council Area. Council Licencing and enforcement teams attention is requesting to control this unauthorised operation with in the boundaries of Wirral Council.

I think we should have no age limit for a private hire and allow a tinted window.and also have a limit for a new drivers .thanks hope you take our comments seriously.

Personally I think wirral Council need to be addressing what is allowed via other authorities working in the area as we ourselves whom sat our badges with wirral are being penalised against other authorities.

Hackney Carriage Vehicle rules are totally outdated.and unfair.....Re Yellow trim on Seats, Yellow handles, rear 'doors open' sign needed are just a few but there are many more..... These are implemented but same vehicle on Private hire are not needed

🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄..... But I suppose this is one of the reasons why we are called 'Wacky Wirral' when asked in correspondence very regularly!!!!

Mainly when get asked what Licensing Authority you are working/Licensed with when renewing our insurance!!!!

Anyway I know this won't get anywhere, so I am wasting my timeYET AGAIN!!!!

I have been a private hire driver and a Hackney driver on the wirral and forced out by your current policies being to strict on drivers who don't do that many hours therefore making it to difficult to make a living with your strict expensive dicisions forcing me to move to another council the plate a perfectly good car.

Age of PH vehicle policy must be addressed to stop drivers going to Sefton to get plated and badged. 6 month wait in Sefton to get badged!

I personally think all councils across England should be subject to the same rules, making it an even playing field.

My main concern is the windows issue. Wirral is losing income at an accelerating rate due to this. Drivers should have the right to choose a vehicle of their choice. Much more important to the council should be the type of person driving , i have heard awful stories of unacceptable driver attitude. The treatment of the old and infirm should be based on kindness and courtesy, , i have spent many years in the corporate world and am used to high standards of behaviour. If i were in licencing i would work towards a standard so as to change this low level and dangerous behaviour

It's time to cap the number of licences granted and to stop cross border allowances

As a Hackney Driver with private hire badges i have been in the Taxi Trade as a Hackney driver since 1998 first in Liverpool now Wirral i feel that we have no support both as drivers and owner from WBC and the LCR, During COVID we got a very small amount of money from LCR Mayor the bus and train companies Furlow all or most of there staff on full pay we got nothing, In 2013 the likes of Arriva/Stagecoach got enormous amounts of support for Hybrid fleets today 2023 we have received no help financially from WBC/LCR or Central Government the Hackney fleet on the Wirral is in dire straits because of the lack of funding support there are only 3 Hybrid Hackney vehicles out of about 180 on the road this tells you that people cant afford them without financial help the other problem Wheelchairs/Scooters are getting bigger and the old dying out fleet cant fit them in the Cabs, I feel that the WBC policy on rear loading vehicles is way behind the guidelines recommended by TFL we need alternative affordable vehicles that accomodate all people in or out of Wheelchairs/Scooters, I feel that the current structure of WBC is way behind the times and needs to be overhauled from top to bottom. i would be open to any discussion with WBC on moving forward.

The Taxi and Private Hire trade has reduced considerably due to Covid. Driver's were abandoned by the Government and received little or no financial support. They were wrned but took little notice. As a consequence many left the trade and will never return. To make it attractive or even possible to recruit new blood it has to be viable financially. At present it is not. Vehicles are not available in the affordability range that matches Wirral's earning levels. Lack of access to ranks that are full of illegally parked vehicles is generally ignored by parking enforements. "Liscard cresent and Hamilton Square to name a few" No enforecement relating to Private Hire vehicles picking up unbooked hirings often from taxi ranks. I have yet to see or hear of one prosecution. Yet Liverpool publish there's monthly on the web site. This may appear to be small issues that are usually ignored by licensing but they make a big difference if your income depends on it.

Rules are rules they should be same for everyone weather they are from Wirral Council or Liverpool City Council or any other Council. If you only say Wirral Council than you should not allow any other Council drivers work on the wirral and if you do so than they should follow the Wirral Council Rules.

I know alot of drivers have moved to different different councils because of rules me personally think its getting crazy all the different plates around the wirral now Wolverhampton being one of them.

Local Authorities have a difficult task, in ensuring that taxis and private hire have the highest standards without making those standards prohibitively expensive to the point where it undermines the viability of running a taxi or private hire vehicle. Particularly with recent changes in legislation which makes it easier for individuals to obtain licences with councils that may have lesser standards, but still work exclusively in Wirral

I drive for Sefton, despite living on the Wirral, because of the window tint rule, and the choice of cars available to me.

Way to strict on some policies it cost the driver a lot more money to have glass changed or restricts them from buying the car they want

As Wirral council keeps a strict regulations , people are going to other councils to get permits for the same vehicle , looses Wirral Council's revenue. Please Think

I think if Wirral council don't remove the requirement for window tints then more and more drivers will move to other councils when their badge's expire meaning less revenue for Wirral.

My review on your process's of understanding the trade is well respected and appreciated as a business owner however, with the current state of play in the public hire sector i feel you will struggle getting parts for vehicles it is almost impossible. By lowering the age standards of the vehicles you are also lowering the safety of the same vehicle. I believe under the circumstances with the lack of public hires vehicles available with the new policies therefore you MUST change to assist drivers to purchase WAVS you must understand that the drivers do not want to buy them regardless (or afford them). The Hackney trade is one of the most hardest to buy a WAV with guaranteed miles knowing that you are purchasing the vehicle with good faith is certainly is not what happens in the real world of Public Hire - we can see this just in mots and mileages on these vehicles and the amount of vehicles that do get clocked are disgraceful. The Public Hire hire stay in these vehicles to make more money and pay less tax and the Private Hire are investing in vehicles to off set taxes and provide a service and taking pride in what they are doing. My honest opinion of the Public Hire and the industry that i provide services for as soon as the cash payments received and the taxes of proven income comes into play the Hackney trade as well as the lack of vehicles will fail. The majority of the vehicles on the ranks are not servicing the disabled, no proper checks on MOTs that all straps and ramps are active and massive changes need to prevail if you are going down the road of older taxis to provide services to disabled people. Buggies and shopping trollies should also be secured in the vehicle at all times.

There should not be any upper age limit in private hire vehicle in today's world of inflation.

I have one year left with Wirral and I'm taking a course with Liverpool to get a badge with them as they allow window tints and they're cheaper.

Wirral is too expensive and too strict compared to other local authorities so I'm not staying.

We feel it would be advantageous for the disabled traveling public on the wirral to be able to use other wheelchair accessible vehicles, other than hackneys - i.e a private hire vehicle with possibly a rear loading ramp.

Biggest issue are age limits of vehicles and tinted windows .

Tinted windows,
Thus has to change before drivers just go elsewhere.

I have been a cab driver since 2005 in that time the job has got progressively worse with the amount of clubs and pubs shutting and bringing the weekend night shifts to its knees, then to put the icing on the cake you have all the cross border private hire cars coming in, Uber, Delta, Alpha and our own local Private hire firm Argyle with Liverpool Hackneys working Wirral. These said plated vehicles have got Liverpool, Sefton, Cheshire west, Bootle and now Wolverhampton. This last council is issuing these plates like confetti, this problem needs to be addressed as I can see Wirral not having any Hackney cabs in the near future. Remember no cabs no cab licence fee for Wirral Council, Wolverhampton will have them as private hire drivers. Access at Ham square rank opposite station can be stressful to work off as parked cars or vans seem to think they can park on it when they feel like! Also the rank in Liscard Crescent, when I asked a car to move off the rank on Ham Square I was told that I would have my windows smashed if I blocked him in, and one last thing, 20 mile an hour roads yes schools but all over Wirral, utter madness more emissions are released at 20 mile an hour or is it safety, I didn't see a tsunami of people getting ran over but there will be a tsunami of cars hitting other cars because everyone is too busy looking at their speedometer and not looking what's in front of them.

I hope that when you review that whatever your reasons for the age limit and the tinted windows that it only serves to financially punish and discriminate WBC drivers trying to earn a living which is getting harder in the financial crisis we're living in and showing no signs of changing soon as long as ALL vehicles meet the strict criteria set out by yourselves then ALL vehicles and drivers should be treated as equal

So overall in my opinion I think that we should slightly alter these requirements to make everything fair all around, this comes as I am an airport transfer and I keep my vehicle in top condition for the best experience for the customer!

As answered in question 18, I find it hard to understand why it is only Wirral council who has these restrictions which is forcing Wirral drivers to get licenced in Liverpool or Chester then come and work for Argyle taxis on the Wirral
Wirral council must be losing drivers and their money!
It also makes renewing vehicles difficult as most new vehicles have privacy glass fitted as standard!

Get online with regulations on factory fitted window tints as the other Merseyside councils. This must change!

I think the window tints on private hire vehicles should be scrapped as this puts local Wirral drivers at a disadvantage when drivers from Sefton/Liverpool are working for the same operators without window tints. A lot of local drivers are in the process of getting a Sefton Licence due to this issue.

Regarding hackney Carriages, newly licensed cabs under 3 years old should be scrapped and changed to 10 years in my opinion. Cost of cabs under 3 years old are now extortionately

priced and will have an effect in reducing Hackney's inWirral in the next few years. This will affect people who rely on the hackney trade, especially wheelchair users.

It should be only Wirral plated cars and taxis working Wirral for maximum passenger safety.

I think a taxi should only be able to pick up in the council they are licensed in drop off any were local drivers for local people

I would happily accept an invitation to consult with the Council over any of the issues I have highlighted in my survey response. For the Council to be losing funds to adjacent Councils, seems to me, to be incomprehensible in this current financial climate.

Furthermore to cede control to adjacent Councils over the acceptability and standards of drivers and vehicles trading on Wirral highways appears unjustifiable and irrational, particularly when the policy creating this circumstance, is at odds with the Department of Transport current guidance, dated November 2023.

A uniform set of rules should apply across all Hackney and private hire companies as well as councils

I Think the councils current legislation is spot on fir wirral councils requirements

One thing that really gets on my nerves is the fact I hold a wirral badge yet others go and get Sefton badges and work over here, we have a knowledge test yet they don't. Surly this should be compulsory to work on the wirral

I think the council should be more relaxed on the age of the cars. A lot of drivers have struggled because of covid and paying out for a new car just because it's 10 years old is unfair in my opinion

Please take my notes seriously in regards to age limit and tinted windows and it's drivers us drivers crazy. I know few people that can't find a vehicle they want because of tinted windows and I know a few who spent 2-3 grant just to meet your requirement whereas other drivers from other authority are working in our area without any restrictions. Not fair!

I only know the comments I have made have effected me over the years which causes extra hassle doing the job when things are tough enough as it is.

The main change that I would like to see as a private hire driver with an Operators license is the window tints. I only do airport transfers and I think we should be allowed to buy nicer spec minibuses which have tinted windows.

WE DO NOT NEED A METER INCREASE, UBER SHOULD BE MADE TO TAKE ON CABS ON THE WIRRAL ALL THE WHEEL CHAIR JOBS ARE GOING TO OUT OF TOWN DRIVERS! WILL HACKNEY DRIVERS ARE SUFFERING MAKE THEM TAKE US ON OR BAN THEM FROM TAKING WHEEL CHAIR BOOKING IN OUR BOROUGH LOCAL WORK FOR LOCAL DRIVER WITH LOCAL

KNOWLEDGE, CROSS BORDER HIRING IS HERE ITS A REAL ISSUE OUR COUNCIL NEEDS TO REACT TO MAKE DRIVERS WANT TO BE BADGED HERE

As a hackney owner/ driver i think we should be able to replace with 10 or 11 year olds from london etc as they are within price range because at the moment there is nothing to buy within our price range

Survey has already covered my main issues of phv age and the requirements for non- tinted windows

Scrap the tints nonsense as we will all be going to Sefton

Thankyou for doing this survey it is very much needed and appreciated

Cross boarder hiring has had a massive effect for all drivers and council you cannot impose rules for one and not the other without discrimination.

Drivers coming in from outside the area is a drain on the Wirral economy as they buy their fuel groceries in the town they live in.

Drivers getting licensed in other areas is also a drain on the economy as no doubt as to why we are having this survey.

I would like to see more help from the licensing department with regards to special dispensation towards removal of front and rear plates for events such as weddings corporate events. As have to turn away work as I cannot offer my car for such events. I take pride in offering a service above normal requirements and trying to offer a higher standard of service than what is available.

Please remove the window tint rule it's so hard to find a car without.

Rules governing the taxi trade at local levels are now absurd, you have p/h from other areas working Wirral, picking up the very people you say as a licensing authority your rules are there to protect but your rules don't apply to their vehicles, medicals are different. I know this is a national issue but it is absolutely ridiculous

I feel there is no reason for two tests a year as the spot checks the council carry out are very effective.

Regarding hackney carriage vehicles.

There should be more ranks across the wirral area. Not just in birkenhead liscard or new brighton. There should be ones at arrowe park hospital, St caths, clatterbridge. This would help spread the ranking up less taxis stuck in the town etc. If the hospital is on private land can't the licensing liase with the land owners? There seems to be no problem in Liverpool all hospitals near enough have hackney ranks for the hospitals. There could also be a rank put in Heswall like there used to be around the resturants etc. Oxton village by the resturants/pubs.

It's much safer having taxis waiting outside than people standing on street corners alone waiting for private hire for over an hour.

Hackney carriage vehicles have no upper age limit, this is because they are purpose built for the job. Private hire vehicles (e.g. Ford Mondeo) have a 10 year limit, these vehicles are not purpose built for their job so I believe the age limit to be a correct requirement. However I operate wheelchair accessible school minibuses operating exclusively for Wirral council, these buses are purpose built the same as a hackney vehicle but are licensed under the private hire age limit, I believe this should be reviewed due to being purpose built, their limited work and therefore limited annual mileage.

When I'm driving my clients I'm representing Wirral Council and I provide the client with a professional customer experience which in turn provides repeat business I am very happy with licensing and if I could ask anything I would ask you to have a rethink on Sun Protection glass in the rear. Thank You.

Dear Sir/Madam.

Could the Licensing office and panel consider a dispensation for Private hire vehicles that are booked through a licensed operator for Weddings and or Corporate transport to remove door signs and vehicle orange plates for the duration of the booking whilst keeping them secure in the vehicle until the booking is complete then refitted to said vehicle in line with normal Council policy.

Any bookings for Weddings/ Corporate transport would have to be booked by Email and payment by bank transfer or corporate business card.

The Vehicles driver would still have to wear their badge and display as normal the secondary badge in the vehicle.

Thank you for your time.

I think it is time to allow vehicles, which are more than 10 years old to work as a private hire in the Wirral council, thanks

WBC in the public interest(loss of revenue)need to stop allowing vehicles/drivers to move out of area. The only way to do this is to remove the window tint current rules. This is the main sticking point with all drivers. To remove tint can cosy up to £1500. Most drivers cannot afford this cost hence the reason for plating in Liverpool at a monstrous cost in loss of revenue to WBC

I don't believe the delegated powers is the appropriate method to be used to make the decisions, I also think the vehicle inspections at the solar campus should be questioned on there qualifications as to if they are trained mechanics and to actually learn there job between the difference between a taxi and a minibus

I would like to see a fairer playing field. Any vehicles working on the Wirral should be governed by the same rules regardless of where the car has been plated. FAIRNESS FOR ALL

We as a association already had a meeting with Mr Andrew Bushell, at the meeting we had discussed and raised our concerns about vehicle age limits and tinted windows, we believe Wirral council are losing money in revenue due to drivers are returning Wirral licences and obtaining licenses from other councils such as Liverpool City, Sefton, Wolverhampton, we had further communication with Mr Bushell via emails, Mr Bushell ensured us that he will share our concerns with the heads of Wirral Taxi Licensing Authority, we believe there is an panel meeting on 24th January 2024, we as an association would like to attend the meeting and share our concerns and suggestions.

Asking for drivers to change cars every 10 years is unreasonable

I do hope the council come to there senses and relax the rules on drivers vehicles, i am sure the council will get more revenue if they change the rules

A lot of there rules are out of date with current times. An need updating. I find it difficult to understand that drivers working for the same company on Wirral roads are under different rules. It's encouraging drivers to regeister with different councils to go around these rules. Which is not good for any one . I'm sure customers would be safer an feel safer if all cars are run by the same set of rules.

As we are called wirral city region , we should have all the same rules , a combined licencing region

Because vehicles which are suitable for taxi s are very expensive nowif the vehicle us still in very good condition then the licence should be at least fifteen years ..