

01-07-17

To Patsy Mellor,

The Hackney Carriage Taxi Drivers of Bristol, would like to present you with some concerns and requests regarding several of the Council's policies and the constructive damage caused by the council to the public hire trade. All of which have been raised at previous meetings and we feel the need to put this in writing so that we may be heard.

### **MOT stations.**

We, the drivers feel that we have been regularly mistreated by the staff at the testing station on Sandy Park Road, often asking us to carry out unnecessary work on the vehicles when the council requirements have already been met. We request that we be allowed to use independent MOT testing stations so that the staff do not take advantage of drivers whilst knowing the drivers have no other option.

### **Taxi Ranks**

The Council have been rapidly decreasing the number of taxi rank spaces from key locations around the city centre whilst increasing the number of taxis. We request to have ranks at the BRI, outside the full moon on Stokes Croft, Southmead Hospital, Bristol Hippodrome (which has been removed from the Council's plans) and other such locations in consultation with trade representatives.

### **Uber**

We request that you revoke the operator's license given to Uber on grounds of Uber employing hundreds of TfL licensed vehicles to work full-time in Bristol and also other out of district ubers who are working in Bristol full-time with the council powerless to stop them .

### **Low emissions zone**

We request that you remove the proposal of charging any non-euro 6 diesel or post euro 4 petrol public hire taxi a city centre emissions charge, on the grounds that this is a public transport licensed by yourselves, and we have to go where the customers want us to including the city centre, hence it's unfair to charge us for what we have no choice. We also request that you change the rules on replacement vehicles and not insist that they must be euro 6 as it defeats the object of buying a three and half year old car as they do not exist in Euro 6, and by the time Euro 6 cars are three and a half years

old you may well bring out a rule for Euro 7 and so on. Please do not make up rules on a daily basis without any thought or consideration for the impact of cost on the drivers.

### **Saloon Cars**

Since the number of wheelchair accessible taxis heavily outweighs the number of registered wheelchair users we request that the condition of all taxis being wheelchair accessible be removed. This will also help elderly people who find it extremely difficult getting into wheelchair accessible vehicles because of their height from the ground. (elderly passengers considerably outweigh wheelchair users and drivers experience such issues with elderly people on a weekly basis, whereas a wheelchair passenger may come along on average once every year) .If you are not convinced by this please carry out a survey.

### **Meter Rate**

We request that the evening meter rate should begin at 6pm as the current rate is actually lower than the previous rate 2 of a few years ago. Also rate 4 which is currently Saturday and Sunday nights should be Friday and Saturday nights. We also request a fare review as the last review was approximately four years ago.

### **Bristol Blue**

Manufacturers of vehicles change their shades of blue on a regular basis, to buy a new car in the shade of blue that meets your requirements is almost impossible. So drivers are having to pay for respray of new vehicles on top of the cost of purchasing them. We request a review on the colour, as we feel not enough thought has been given to the financial impact on drivers.

### **Licensing Office**

Many drivers are complaining about late arrivals of driver and vehicle licenses. We request a more efficient method of dealing with applications so that drivers are not being forced not to work for considerable periods of time through no fault of their own.

To summarise we feel that all our valid and reasonable concerns have been continually ignored. We request understanding and an honest approach.

Mr A Djahlat and Hackney drivers of Bristol.

Email: halim1978@hotmail.co.uk