



Mr. A Djahlat,
12 Belton Road,
Bristol,
BS5 0JS

Labour Councillors' Office
Bristol City Council
PO Box 3176
Bristol BS3 9FS
Tel: 07584480583
cllr.ruth.pickersgill@bristol.gov.uk

8th November 2017

Dear Mr Djahlat

As promised, further to your petition that was presented to the last Public Safety Committee, all of the relevant officers have been consulted, and enclosed is the official Council reply to the issues raised. I am sure that there are some areas that we can move forward, or that are already being considered, but others are beyond the remit of the City Council, so we need to be raising them with MPs etc. so they can influence Government (e.g. about needing standardised minimum licensing standards so that drivers do not get licensed in other areas and work in Bristol).

As we said yesterday, the City Council is very willing to work with Trade Representatives and to involve them in policy discussions, but this has to be done in a democratic way through the Taxi Forum. As you saw yesterday, trying to communicate with so many individuals through a protest is not really a very satisfactory way to get things done for anyone. The Forum will be agreeing their new Terms of Reference and the HC trade need to agree who their reps will be and those people need to make sure they bring concerns to the table and then relay back the correct information to the drivers. I heard what you said about wanting separate discussions without private hire operators, and we have altered the draft so that this can happen when there are issues that just impact on HC like the fare review.

As I said, we are all really happy to do what we can to support the Hackney Carriage trade, and I do believe they are a crucial part of our public transport system going forward, but the best way to do this is through constructive discussion around the table which looks at what we can do positively in the future, rather than revisiting issues from the past.

As I said, this is not the end of the democratic process as the issues you raise will be part of the discussion among councillors at the next Public Safety Committee.

Best wishes

Cllr. Ruth Pickersgill (Chair of Public Safety)

Cc Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol