

Bristol City Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



(Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this form)

Name of proposal	To amend the Private Hire vehicle policies and inspection standard
Directorate and Service Area	Growth and Regeneration, Regulatory Services
Name of Lead Officer	Sarah Flower – Senior Licensing Officer

Step 1: What is the proposal?

Please explain your proposal in Plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon. This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.

1.1 What is the proposal?

To seek permission for the Licensing and Trading Standards Manager to commence a consultation process in relation to a proposal to amend a private hire vehicle policy and vehicle inspection standard so that tints are allowed in the rear side windows of private hire vehicles all other aspects of the policy remain unchanged.

The current private hire inspection standard policy on tints was presented to members on 12 February 2013 and it was agreed that the implementation of the new standards would take effect from 1st April 2013.

No other options have been considered in respect of tints.

The request for the removal of the tints policy has been requested by Councillor Ruth Pickersgill and members of the Taxi Forum.

Step 2: What information do we have?

Decisions must be evidence-based, and involve people with protected characteristics that could be affected. Please use this section to demonstrate understanding of who could be affected by the proposal.

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Based on the demographics of the City of Bristol the majority of citizens which are potential taxi customers:

- 78% are White British compared to 80% the national average
- 17% have a Limiting Long-term Illness or Disability which is lower than the national average of 18%
- 50% are women which is slightly lower than the national average of 51%

Disability

The Office for Disability Issues has updated Department for Work and Pensions estimates which show there are 11.2 million disabled people in Great Britain, of whom 5.2 million are adults of working age, 5.2 million are over state pension age and 0.8 million are children (Disability prevalence estimates 2010/11).

Taxis and minicabs are vital for many disabled and older people and for some the only accessible transport mode (Beuret, 1995).

Licence holders

In Bristol there are currently 949 licensed private hire vehicles. Anecdotally the majority of Bristol taxi drivers are Male, and a large proportion of taxi drivers are BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnicity), and Muslim.

2.2 Who is missing? Are there any gaps in the data?

We do not currently hold equalities data on the profile of licensed taxi/private hire drivers. We have recently sent a survey to existing drivers and applicants to try and gain this information.

2.3 How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?

The private hire trade will be consulted with via the taxi newsletter, which is sent out to the trade via email, and also the taxi forum meetings, which are held monthly.

Consultation on draft policies may be published on the Councils Consultation Finder. We will seek the views of disability equalities groups (e.g. WECIL and Bristol Disability Equality Forum), Women's rights groups (e.g. Bristol Women's Voice and Bristol Women's Commission), and older people groups (e.g. Bristol Older Peoples Forum) to check for perceived safety concerns.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section, referring to all of the equalities groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

Age: Tinted windows could reduce perceived confidence in the safety of private hire vehicles.

Disability: People with sight loss may be likely to have more reduced visibility through windows and reduced light inside vehicles could affect those with sight loss and other impairments.

Marriage or Civil Partnership Status: No negative impact identified

Ethnicity: No negative impact identified

Gender: Tinted windows could reduce perceived confidence in the safety of private hire vehicles.

Pregnancy and Maternity: No negative impact identified.

Religion or belief: No negative impact identified.

Sexual orientation: No negative impact identified

Gender reassignment: No negative impact identified.

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?
More vehicles licensed by Bristol City Council, thereby improving the regulatory regime for consumers booking vehicles and travelling in Bristol
New vehicles tend to have less transparent glass and additional costs of replacing windows is likely to have a disproportionate impact on BME drivers due to their over representations in the taxi trade.
3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?
As above, more vehicles licensed by Bristol City Council, thereby improving the regulatory regime for consumers booking vehicles and travelling in Bristol
3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?
We will ensure there are clear communications, and effective consultation on the proposed changes.

Step 4: So what?

The Equality Impact Assessment must be able to influence the proposal and decision. This section asks how your understanding of impacts on people with protected characteristics has influenced your proposal, and how the findings of your Equality Impact Assessment can be measured going forward.

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?
At this stage the EqIA has highlighted the potential impact for protected groups.
4.2 What actions have been identified going forward?
We will present a report to the Public Safety and Protection Committee to seek approval for a consultation to take place to seek public views on the proposal. If this is agreed then we shall commence a consultation.
4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?
We will provide data from our database on vehicles that have failed the inspection check due to tints.

Service Director Sign-Off: 	Equalities Officer Sign Off: <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>
Date: 10/02/2020	Date: 10/2/2020