

Tariq Mahmood
Chairman
Newcastle & Kidsgrove
Taxi Association

February 28, 2014

Dear Sirs

**Public Protection Committee
3rd February 2014
Hackney Carriage Age Consultation**

I write on this occasion with regard to the Licensing Officers recommendation that as from 1st January 2015 all Hackney Carriage vehicles that are saloon cars will cease to be re-licensed when they are 8 years old.

The Public Protection Committee will recall the resolution at their meeting on 5th September 2013 to consult the Hackney Carriage Trade about the proposal to amend the current age policy regarding Hackney Carriage vehicles.

The outcome of the consultation is clear with a combined response letter dated 25th December 2013 signed by 87 Hackney proprietors with a further 16 individual letters, disagreeing with the council's proposal and, outlines the reasons for disagreeing. Our covering letter of response is at page 55 of councils' agenda paper item 12.

Therefore we consider the outcome of the councils' consultation with the trade should be fundamental and material to the committee's decision making in this important matter.

However, if the councils' purpose behind the proposal is to assist the council in ensuring safety, reliability and standards in the vehicle in licensees (as stated in the agenda)

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Our Association propose to the Committee that tis criterion could be achieved by the council adopting a policy whereby if a Hackney Carriage vehicle over 8 years old is presented for the council licensing test and subsequently passes this stringent test, and is therefore deemed safe and fit for purpose, then that same vehicle should also be subjected to **a further MOT test 6 months after the council test date and a pass certificate presented to the councils licensing department**, thus ensuring the council criteria set out in our para five

The public protection Committee should at this stage of developments, take our proposals into consideration.

For any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Tariq Mahmood

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