

West Yorkshire Police

West Yorkshire police, covering the Kirklees area, would like the following points to be considered and hopefully included in the new taxi licensing policy.

- 1) CCTV to be installed and permanently recording when the vehicle is being used as a taxi or private hire.
- 2) The policy regarding granting or reviewing taxi licenses should be reworded to cover police intelligence and occurrences as opposed to just solely driver's previous convictions. Some drivers have been over the drink drive limit when stopped, however have managed to avoid conviction purely on technicalities. In the new policy drivers and renewal application, the driver must give written consent they do not object to the licensing authority requesting all information held by West Yorkshire, not just convictions but intelligence and involvement with the police.
- 3) All taxi licences are revoked and new grants are not considered if the driver has 7 points or more on their licence.
- 4) All vehicles used as taxi or private hire cars will be clean, tidy and well presented, both internally and externally. All must be mechanically sound and not pose any risk to other road users or passengers.
- 5) Any communication devices used such as mobile phones must be legal to use when the vehicle is in motion.
- 6) Any driver convicted of using their mobile device such as a phone while driving, should have their licence revoked.
- 7) Drivers should be smart and well presented, they are in a way ambassadors for the Kirklees area, people travelling into our area requiring the service of a taxi or private hire should feel that Kirklees is a place worth visiting and are left with a positive image of our towns and our transport infrastructure.
- 8) All drivers must inform the licensing authority of any convictions, no matter what the conviction is for, some minor convictions may be considered irrelevant by the driver, but could demonstrate he/ she is not a fit and proper person. Failure to notify the relevant authority should lead to the licence being revoked.
- 9) All drivers must complete a mandatory refresher training course when their licence is due for renewal. The training should cover relevant and current legislation. Issues such as:
 - 1) Disability legislation, transportation of persons with limited mobility, guide dogs or young persons with learning difficulties.
 - 2) C.S.E issues and how to help vulnerable children.
 - 3) How to help and assist the more vulnerable members of our society, such as the elderly.

Councils Response

The Council welcomes the suggestions made by West Yorkshire Police, and can respond to say that the suggestions made are currently being considered as part of a wider project being undertaken by the West Yorkshire (inc York) Licensing Group to harmonise policies across the region.

Kirklees Council Community Safety Board

The board welcomed the policy and asked that driver training be linked into the Council's Safer Adult Board and Modern Day slavery. The board welcomed the partnership approach being taken in developing policies. The Board asked that links be made to the wider area including bordering authorities in Greater Manchester such as Oldham and Rochdale.

Councils Response

The Council have noted the Boards comments and officers will seek to establish and strengthen links with other bordering authorities.

CSE / Missing Operational Group

The group were fully supportive of the policies being put forward.

Council's Response

The Council welcomes the groups support.

Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board

I would suggest amending the section at the bottom of P7 to read as follows:

'Kirklees Safeguarding Policies (Adults and Children)

The licensing authority considers the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board to be the primary recognised body competent to give advice on the protection of children and the Kirklees Safeguarding Adult's Board to give advice on protection of vulnerable adults. For the purposes of this policy a child is someone under the age of 18 years and vulnerable adult is someone over the age of 18 with care and support needs.

The Kirklees Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards take a positive and supportive view of this role and where possible, are committed to working in partnership with the licensing authority. The licensing authority will also work in partnership with internal services. Public Health and Protection Board and other relevant partners to develop good guidance and share information to promote public safety and safeguarding vulnerable passengers.

Councils Response

The Council see no reason not to make the changes suggested by the Board, and have amended the relevant sections of the policy.

Kirklees Safe Guarding Children's Board

The Board welcomed the comprehensive nature of the policy, and noted the approach to strengthened diligence, including training, vetting, ongoing monitoring and sanctions

The board encouraged and supported the use of 'soft' intelligence, while recognising that for some individuals this may prove challenging, the Board took the view that they supported this approach. It was the Boards view that the safeguarding of the most vulnerable outweighed the individual human rights aspects.

The Board were encouraged by the parallel work to educate, raise awareness and inform; and that the Board would raise this with West Yorkshire colleagues

The Board welcomed that the policy encompassed all providers including independent companies.

Councils Response

The Council welcomes the suggestions made by the Board, and its support. Officers can respond to say that the suggestions made are being considered as part of a wider project being undertaken by the West Yorkshire (inc York) Licensing Group to harmonise policies across the region. The Licensing service has agreed to attend the Board to discuss potential campaigns and raising awareness in relation to relevant licensing issues and safety of the public.