

Date: 31 July 2017
Your ref: _____ Our ref: [OUR REF]
Please ask for: Mr A Glover
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This letter is being sent to all drivers and proprietors of Hackney Carriage / Private Hire vehicles licensed by South Ribble Borough Council

Dear Sirs

RE: Consultation exercises to run throughout the month of August 2017

As discussed at the Taxi Trade Forum held on 13 July 2017, the Licensing Section of South Ribble Borough Council is consulting upon a number of changes to its policies and procedures. As part of this process we would want to engage with all stakeholders and interested parties, including licensed drivers and proprietors.

The consultation exercises will commence on **Tuesday 1 August 2017 and conclude at 5pm on 31 August 2017**. There are a number of topics on which consultation is taking place – these are summarised below:

- 1) Proposed adoption of (i) legislation relating to the transportation of assistance dogs, and a procedure enabling drivers to apply for an exemption from these requirements on medical grounds;
- 2) Proposed adoption of (i) legislation enabling the Council to produce a “designated list” of vehicles adapted for the transportation of wheelchair users; (ii) obliging drivers of vehicles on the designated list to provide support and assistance for wheelchair users who use vehicles on the designated list; and (iii) a procedure enabling drivers to apply for an exemption from these requirements on medical grounds;
- 3) Proposed adoption of an Intended Use Policy, requiring all applicants for a Hackney Carriage driver’s licence to formally confirm their intention to drive predominantly within the area of South Ribble Borough Council;
- 4) Proposed adoption of a testing regime to ensure the continuing roadworthiness of vehicles which have been subject to modification (eg to allow the transportation of wheelchairs). As part of this consultation, views are being sought on whether to allow testing to be carried out by testing stations across the Borough, or to restrict the carrying out of tests to the Lancashire County Council facility at Bamber Bridge;
- 5) Proposed adoption of a number (up to 14) possible changes to the current Licensing Policy, covering a variety of areas including driver qualifications, tinted windows etc; and
- 6) Proposed requirement for all new applicants to provide proof of satisfactory completion of an online training course on Safeguarding prior to granting of a licence, with a similar requirement being introduced for existing drivers on the 3-yearly renewal of their licence.



I would formally invite you to visit the relevant page of the Council's website, which sets out further detail on all the above consultation topics (as well as the various methods of submitting your views). The address of the relevant page is:

<https://www.southribble.gov.uk/consultations>

In addition, the Council is intending to hold two drop in sessions for licence holders and others who may wish to talk through the proposals and get a better understanding of what they entail. These sessions will be held in the Cross Room at the Civic Centre on the following dates:

- 15 August (2.30pm – 4pm); and
- 17 August (10.30am – 12 noon).

Please feel free to just call in if you wish – no prior arrangement is needed.

As licence holders your views are important to the Council, and we look forward to hearing from you during the consultation period.

Yours sincerely



Andy Glover
Interim Licensing Manager