

To all members of the general licensing committee and full council cabinet of South Ribble Borough from South Ribble Licensed Taxi Drivers

As a body representing the taxi trade we would like to ask the cabinet to reconsider it's decision not to align the age differential between saloon and estate car vehicles with those of WAV's and minibuses

We have several reasons for asking you to reconsider your previous decision and they are as follow :

- 1)We are currently running at a disadvantage since two out of borough private hire firms have been granted SRBC private hire operator licences (Millers and Coopers)
- 2)These operators currently have in the region of 300 vehicles between them and potentially whilst they are building up trade with in the South Ribble Borough will predominantly use their Chorley and Preston licensed vehicles to cover work taken in our borough

3)When compared with our age limits and stringent roadworthiness tests the Preston and Chorley boroughs fall below our standards at least in relation to age as neither borough have age limit criteria, they rely on Euro 4 emission standards by which they set their benchmark

4)At the GLC meeting prior to the full cabinet session we heard from environmental health who stated that to change the age limit for cars and estate vehicles would cause too much pollution within our borough. Considering that altering the age limit would effect significantly less than 200 licenced vehicles in a town where many thousands of vehicles pass through daily, many of which will be stationary whilst their engines are running e.g., waste collection vehicles, buses, delivery lorries, vehicles in queuing traffic, etc., for the majority of the day a taxi will sit with its engine off whilst waiting between jobs.

5)At a meeting of the general licensing committee before the decision was made by the full

council to keep our age limits as is, the GLC voted 11 to 2 in favour of aligning the ages at 6 and 12 years across the board which is an exceptionally large majority vote which many have found surprising when overturned by the full council.

6) We would again suggest aligning all licenced hire vehicles to a 6 and 12 year age limit, and to justify this move and to satisfy environmental concerns have a Euro 4/5 emission standard or a maximum co2 g/km, in conjunction with the unified age limits. These emission levels are easy to obtain for all vehicles from government web sites and can be part of all licenced vehicle conditions from the date of their next replacement.

We appreciate you time in reading and consideration on the above points.

Faithfully yours,
South Ribble Licenced Taxi Drivers