

10/03/09


Councillor Sue Morris
Chair of Licensing Committee

copy to Karen Plympton

Further to our brief conversation after the committee meeting last night, and as per your request, I think that the conditions that should, indeed must, be attached to the issue of any new licence plates if we are to prevent a catastrophic uptake of licenses or the abuse of the system that I have been told that certain drivers are planning, which is to obtain an extra licence then transfer their existing WAV to the new licence so that they can sell their old plate, this would increase the number of taxis without achieving any increase in the number of WAVs, which would be the worst of all worlds, the existing trade would have to bear the reduction in income created by the extra plates wanting their share of the trade without any benefit to the disabled community.

My advice is - All new plates issued;

- 1/ ~~must~~ be attached to a vehicle complying with European standards,
- 2/ ~~Must be a~~ Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle
- 3/ The ~~vehicle~~ must be less than one year old
- 4/ The new licence plate must not (never) be transferred to a vehicle that is already licensed as a Hackney Carriage, even if that vehicle is a WAV type.



Peter Smith

12 MAR 2009

Proposal if delimitation cannot be prevented

If appeal against delimitation fails I propose the following:

All plates issued after delimitation should have wheelchair accessible vehicles as part of the issuing rules as was already enforced with the last plates issued.

- This would ensure the council is doing their part for disabled access and
- Existing Hackney Carriage drivers could retain part of the fleet as normal cars to accommodate many of our customers who have problems accessing wheelchair accessible vehicles.

I propose all existing issued plates prior to those issued above

- Be able to use any vehicle type as is now the case
- This right should be carried on in perpetuity thus giving a value to businesses that own one of the original plates.

In doing this it would ensure any potential new driver who wishes to become a taxi driver in Eastbourne would have the options of:

Either

- Having the choice of obtaining a plate from the council making it necessary to buy a purpose built vehicle

Or

- Purchasing a business including plate from an existing taxi driver, then being able to supply a suitable vehicle of their choice, as is the case now, which comply with the current standards required

In accepting this option, a mixed fleet of vehicles would then remain available to the travelling public thus retaining the choices already in existence now.

By following this proposal the council can then ensure plates are issued in a controlled method giving time to allow for the otherwise increased demand on rank space which would occur if there are no restrictions in place.

If however it is decided there will be no limitations in place for the new plates issued, the taxi ranks will need to be redeveloped immediately as the current rank spaces are inadequate and unable to accommodate the vehicles that use them at present. If this is ignored and no extra ranks provided, the consequences could lead to damaging impacts within the town centre on its economy and on its environment, as large numbers of Hackney Carriage drivers will need to drive around looking for spaces to rank up, causing congestion on the already busy roads used by shoppers and visitors to Eastbourne

In this current financial climate it would be wrong and damaging to make decisions that could potentially impact further on trade to the shops and businesses whom we rely on heavily to protect our economy.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Lane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Guy Lane

Hackney Licence & Plate Proprietor

Date

12/03/2009

30th March 2009

Licensing Committee
Town Hall
Eastbourne

Re: Quality Control Policy Linked to De-limitation.

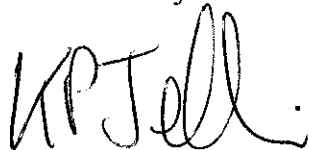
Dear Committee,

Regarding the policy of de-limitation I would urge you to consider strict quality controls, that is, wheelchair accessible vehicles that are under 12 months old. Anything less, say vehicles that are under 3 years old, would result in many more licences being issued to cheaper, high mileage vehicles. Not only would this defy the meaning of quality but would flood the town with far too many taxis at a time when we are unable to make a reasonable income from the hours spent sitting on overcrowded ranks.

This has now become a matter of damage limitation and the survival of the Hackney Carriage trade as we know it in Eastbourne.

Thanking you in anticipation of a favourable outcome,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Jeffries', with a small dot at the end.

Kevin Jeffries (Independent Hackney Carriage Proprietor)