

From: licensing
Sent: 08 October 2023 21:44
To: Curtis, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Licensed Drivers - Consultation

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 4:45 PM
To: licensing <licensing@lancaster.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Licensed Drivers - Consultation

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Good afternoon.

Thank you for your email, on which I have taken the opportunity to take your survey.

I would like to comment though, on your statement of there being a “shortage of licensed drivers and vehicles”

I do not believe this to be the case.

A licensed driver, like myself, is entitled to work when they see fit, as they are self employed.

Most drivers now, work the day shifts, as the night time shifts can be, and have been, far too much hassle and is not worth the aggravation.

The police do not help in any way, if there is a non payer, damaged caused to a vehicle, or indeed a driver gets robbed. They put it down to a “civil matter”

Well I’m sorry, but I beg to differ!

Non payers are “obtaining services by deception”

Damaging cars is plain “criminal damage”

And robbing a driver of his takings is just blatant “robbery”

And the police put this down to a “civil matter”? I don’t think so.

If the industry had more support from the local police, especially at night time, there would be more vehicles available.

Cleanliness of a vehicle should also be a priority! No one wants to get in to a taxi/private hire, that is dirty inside, and stinking like a takeaway.

Believe me, it happens.

I notice there was nothing on the survey about the way a compliance test is carried out, and the charge for it?

I myself, have had issues with the VMU regarding damage to property, and when complained about, it has fallen on deaf ears.

An average MOT is approximately £55, yet a compliance test is the best part of £150?

It’s just the same thing, but with the added extras of a fire extinguisher and medical kit.

Licensing may want to consider lowering their charges, if they intend to attract mor drivers and vehicles for the area.

Regards



On 6 Oct 2023, at 14:51, licensing <licensing@lancaster.gov.uk> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Lancaster City Council are responsible for the Licensing of Taxi and Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and Operators. As such, a set of application criteria has been approved by members of Licensing Committee to ensure an applicant's suitability to be licensed. It includes an enhanced disclosure and barring service certificate, medical examination, professional driving test, BTech course, incorporating a knowledge and safeguarding test and other statutory checks.

There is currently a shortage of licensed drivers (and vehicles) operating in the district, the licensing service and elected members are looking into application criteria and reducing any perceived barriers for new applicants.

When you utilise the services of a licensed vehicle, you may have expectations regarding the person driving, we would like to hear your feedback via the survey below,

Closing date Monday 30th October 2023.

<https://keepconnected.lancaster.gov.uk/t-a-s>

Many thanks,

Jen

Jennifer Curtis | Licensing Manager | Governance | Lancaster City Council | Morecambe Town Hall | Marine Road East | Morecambe | LA4 5AF

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