

From:
Sent: 09 August 2014 05:45
To:
Subject: [GCSx] FW: Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policy Review

Dear

① I have had opportunity to read Shropshire Council's Hackney carriage and Private Hire Policy and have a number of comments to make.

It is quite clear from the documents published in this consultation that Safeguarding is at it's heart. However when considering the potential and real events which either could or have occurred over recent years in both Shropshire and Telford, I support close, partnership working relationships with statutory partners and would encourage the Authorities ability to respond to information of relevance to the decision upon a drivers ongoing suitability to operate a taxi.

I consider it essential in the interests of safety that information known by Statutory partners needs to be shared with the Licencing authority, even when matters have not proceeded as far as prosecution, under the category of **Pressing Social Need**. Clearly the premise of being innocent until proven guilty is a bedrock of the justice system but for the authority to be truly robust and potentially discharge its duties it ought to be able to consider matters of **relevance** and committee's should have the capability to immediately suspend or revoke a licence if satisfied by the weight of evidence or information.

I feel that information or intelligence indicating a driver is either not safe to, or no longer safe to, licence, should be disclosable. This would need to be subject to the usual safeguards and considerations and possibly some thought needs to be had around what information is disclosed to the Lincensing manager and or the members committee.

I believe the authority should be able to consider a drivers suitability on the back of a **Community Resolution** being recorded against a driver or where **No Further Action** following the investigation into a serious offence, takes place, when the weight of the information potentially alludes to their suitability to be, or to continue to be a licenced driver.

Any inference as to the suitability of the driver to be licenced would need to be seriously tested given the circumstances but if this were the second or subsequent incident with similar result then a review may be justified.

I have particular concerns about the span of the authorities control and feel that to protect itself then a review of the current arrangement whereby drivers operation wholly or mainly in another Local Authority Area is needed. I feel the capacity to safeguard weakens the further the driver operates from the location they are Licensed.

These are my main considerations and would be happy to discuss them further if necessary.

Yours sincerely