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**From:**  
**Sent:** 21 August 2014 13:04  
**To:**  
**Subject:** FW: Shropshire Council's Consultation on HC and PH Licensing Policy  
**Attachments:** TWC Response 21 08 14.pdf

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 21 August 2014 12:37  
**To:** Taxis  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Shropshire Council's Consultation on HC and PH Licensing Policy

Dear

Please find attached Telford & Wrekin Council's response to the above consultation.

Regards

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## **Shropshire Council – Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policies**

- ① Please find below a corporate response from Telford & Wrekin Council to the current consultation on Shropshire Council's Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Telford & Wrekin Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to Shropshire Council's Consultation. It is extremely important to us to make comment to a Policy that has possible public safety implications within our Borough.

We are particularly keen to comment on this policy as Shropshire Council now licence a significant number of vehicles and drivers that were previously licensed by Telford & Wrekin Council. In addition, many licences issued by Shropshire Council relate to vehicles and drivers which operate within the Borough of Telford & Wrekin. We, therefore, feel that this would have been an ideal opportunity to look at harmonising policies, given these circumstances and the general direction of travel suggested by the Law Commission, but also feel that this opportunity may have been missed. We would be willing to discuss this further with the committee.

We do wish to work together and have invited Shropshire Council's comments on changes to our policy, such as in October 2013 Telford & Wrekin Council undertook a twelve week consultation exercise in an attempt to revise its Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and Conditions of Licences, but unfortunately no comment was received.

### **② Section 1. Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence – Conditions of Licence.**

7.1. *policy of insurance or such security,.....* We would suggest that the wording should include insurance cover for the purposes of hire and reward

### **③ Section 2. Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions**

Telford & Wrekin Council has no comment to make other than our earlier comment regarding harmonising policies.

### **④ Section 3 – Private Hire Operators Licence Conditions**

Telford & Wrekin Council has no comment to make other than our earlier comment regarding harmonising policies.

### **⑤ Section 4 – Drivers' Licence Conditions**

#### **Requirements**

5. We would suggest that for any documents which require translation, it is worth including that such documents should also be authenticated and sealed.

8. We would suggest that it would be an opportune time to ensure the Knowledge Test includes some reference to drivers understanding the geographical area of Telford & Wrekin.

### **⑥ Conditions of Licence**

9. Convictions. You do not state within what timeframe a licensed driver must disclose any convictions. Telford & Wrekin Council's conditions state *The Licence holder shall notify the Council in writing of any conviction, caution or charge recorded against him/her by any Authority within 7 days of such a conviction, caution or charge being imposed.*

16. Insurance – *to include third party and public hire risk* – We would suggest that the wording should include insurance for hire and reward which is appropriate to the vehicle licensed (i.e. Public hire for Hackneys and private hire for Private Hire Vehicles. Private Hire Vehicles should not be insured for public hire.) Telford & Wrekin Council's conditions state : *It is the Dual Driver's responsibility to ensure that there is a valid certificate or cover note of insurance in existence for him/her to drive the vehicle. Insurance covering Public Hire for Private Hire vehicles will not be accepted by the Council.*

20. As with the Driver Requirements (No.8), we feel it would be an opportune time to ensure the Knowledge Test includes some reference to the drivers understanding the geographic area of Telford & Wrekin.

22.1 This is an excellent inclusion. Telford & Wrekin Council should look to include this item as a condition of licence, due to the change in the Disclosure and Barring Service's procedures which has resulted in a number of drivers failing to notify the Council that they have received their Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate.