

MSTA Members Consultation

Following the previous meeting with MSDC the MSTAs have consulted their members to discuss the plans going forward, and have been given a completed petition against the proposals. The reasons will be explained below.

Petitions were;

Petition 1; - Vehicle age limit for Hackney and private hire

87 signed to ask MSDC to consider extending the age limit

2 signed to say they were happy with the proposed age limit

Petition 2; - Vehicle Colour white only for Hackney Carriage

81 signed to ask MSDC to abandon the proposal

1 signed to say they were happy with the proposal

The working environment for Hackney drivers has changed significantly over the last few years, and the overheads required to provide excellent service and safe transport for the local community continues to rise, in some instances well above inflation. The following is a list of things that have contributed to the uncertainties for the future

- Brexit vote, nobody knows what the future will bring, there is likely to be two years of on-going negotiations and uncertainty.
- Government implementing new rules on diesel engines. Most taxis have this type of engine. Likelihood of more increased costs.
- Rail dispute since April 2016, and still on going. Local people are now changing their working habits, (working from home, changing jobs to local area, using partners for transport to keep costs down)
- Taxi deregulation Act 2015 has now impacted the local area with the number of out of area cars coming into MSDC area, these are drivers that have obtained licenses in areas where the checks done are not the same as MSDC. There is a major issue with out of area private hire vehicles illegally picking up fares without having a pre booking done. This is taking fares off of the local drivers, and also taking earnings out of the local area. There is also the major issue of the vehicle not being insured if they have picked the fare up without prior booking, a duty and care should be given to the residents of the area who are using these vehicles. It happens every single day within the whole area. The vehicles are parking strategically to attract locals that are using the local pubs and bars; some do not even show the appropriate plate on their vehicles.
- Vehicle fitness test twice yearly was bought in originally to ensure there was no need for an age limit
- Station Permit have increased by 34% over the last two years

All of the above has caused several drivers issues over the last few years, including breakdowns, and suicide attempts. Some drivers are living week-by-

week, and struggling to meet their financial obligations. Talk of eviction and bankruptcy amongst others.

We want to protect the long service that has been provided by hackney drivers for many years in MSDC

MSTA Proposals

The association would like to propose that the MSDC proposals are deferred for 2 years in line with the Brexit process, to allow for some clarity of the future.

The association would also like to propose that the age limit is set to 15 years, with an extra fitness test put in place from either year 10 or 12 until the 15th year. If the vehicle is having regular fitness tests, it will be more than roadworthy.

The association does recognise that emission levels need to be lowered, and would like to propose that any vehicles licensed in the two years of deferment would need to be 2006 registered or newer.

The association would like to propose that there is no need for white to be the main colour, but would propose that vehicles should have the MSDC logo. This would be either magnetic, as some drivers would use vehicles for personal use, and remove for holidays etc. Or can be permanent if the license holder so wishes.

The association would like to propose a 30 day window to repair small dents and scratches, this allows time for the license holder to get the vehicle booked in for repair with a repairer. Therefore reducing the amount of financial loss.

The association does agree that major damage, or dangerous sharp edges, and the vehicle should be taken off the road.