

# Public Document Pack

## Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 30th October, 2018

6.00 pm

Conference Room 1, Blackburn Town Hall

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### AGENDA

**8.3 Petition - Private Hire Trade**

**Petition on behalf of Private Hire Trade  
Petition**

**2 - 11**

Date Published: Thursday, 25 October 2018  
Harry Catherall, Chief Executive

**DEPARTMENT: ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE**

**ORIGINATING SECTION : PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE**

**REPORT TO : LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**30:10:18**

**TITLE : Petition on behalf of the Private Hire Trade**

## **1. PURPOSE**

.For members to consider the petition and requests contained within it

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That members note the report

## **3. KEY ISSUES**

A petition, attached as appendix 1, was received from a number of the private hire trade who work from 5 operator bases primarily sited in Blackburn town centre. The date of the covering letter states 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, however it did not reach the Council until this year. The lead petitioner was asked if he wished it still to be considered given the time lapse. He stated that he did.

The petitioners are requesting to use bus lanes, pick up and drop off points for private hire vehicles, independent testing stations and wanting to work more with the Council and Police to improve safety, security and the image of the taxi trade within the Borough

Responses have been sought from the Transport Team for the Pennine reach bus lanes, from Highways for the pick/drop off points in town centres and Licensing for the testing station and final query.

## **4. RATIONALE**

### **USE OF PENNINE REACH BUS LANES**

The Council considered carefully the restrictions relating to the Borough's Bus Lanes as part of the Pennine Reach £40m major transport scheme (funded by the Council and the Department for Transport). The bus lanes can currently be used by local buses, hackney carriages and cyclists. In terms of bus lane effectiveness there has to be a balance drawn between allowing additional vehicles to use the bus lanes and the benefits derived for the purpose they were intended for. The larger the number of vehicles allowed in, the lower the lane's effectiveness for buses, which can carry significantly higher numbers of passengers per vehicle than motor cars.

The usage of bus lanes does vary according to peak demands, time of day and geographic location, but are not underused as suggested. The following information has been compiled from inter-peak bus departures:

- Furthergate: 16 buses per hour - a bus every 3/4 minutes
- Ewood and Earcroft: 8 buses per hour - a bus every 7/8 minutes

There is also an issue relating to the design of traffic light signals systems where virtual "bus gates" are in operation. The signals system at these lights look at the length of vehicles and will not fire traffic lights where

there is a "bus gate", which would present problems if a larger number of motor cars were to use particular bus lanes in Blackburn with Darwen.

Finally, as a Department for Transport major transport scheme, a period of 10 years is in place where material changes to the implemented scheme cannot be made. The Council cannot therefore widen the use of bus lanes to Private Hire Taxis.

### **PRIVATE HIRE DROP OFF / PICK UP POINTS AROUND TOWN CENTRES**

This issue has been raised at the Blackburn with Darwen Taxi Forum previously.

Private hire vehicles are only permitted to pick up via pre-arranged bookings and are not permitted to pick people up from the side of the road or designated taxi ranks. They can have an arrangement with a private land owner but not a Highway Authority. Only hackney carriages are allowed to pick up passengers direct from the highway.

Traffic Regulation Orders cannot be made exclusively for private hire vehicles and so every vehicle would be able to use any pick up/drop off area and therefore negate any benefit for the private hire trade.

The existing arrangement of calling and agreeing where to be picked up / dropped off at will be at the discretion of the Private Hire vehicles and the restrictions in force at that location.

### **INDEPENDENT TESTING STATIONS**

The latest review of MOT testing facilities for the taxi trade within Blackburn with Darwen was reported on in February 2018. The decision was made to keep vehicle testing in-house. The trade have been informed of the decision through the Taxi Forum for Blackburn with Darwen. A copy of the decision paper can be found on the Council's website.

### **CLOSER WORKING WITH COUNCIL**

The request from the petitioners to work more closely with the Council and the Police is welcomed. The taxi forum is the arena where all these ideas can be discussed. The forum is an active, consultative group where the Council, representatives of the taxi trade and the Police meet.

In response to the requests made in the petition, safeguarding awareness training is currently provided to all new drivers and was delivered to all existing drivers last year.

We are awaiting national guidance that is being drafted in relation to Council run in-car CCTV systems. Once this is issued it will be brought back to the taxi forum for discussion. Most operators in the borough are using GPS tracking systems.

The Council run health and wellbeing programmes for all residents in the Borough and those in the taxi trade are able to access. Full details of what is on offer can be found on the Re:fresh website at:

<https://www.refreshbwd.com/>

and so have reached a threshold for language skills. However aspiring drivers may benefit from support in improving English and Maths skills. Details of training can be found at <http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Help-finding-jobs-funding-training.aspx>

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

This petition has been dealt with in accordance with Part 7 of the constitution which outlines the mechanism for petitions of this nature. This report and response is one such type of valid response

## **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

As detailed in Key Issues.

## **10 . CONTACT OFFICER**

Donna Riding – Principal Officer - Licensing  
Telephone 01254 585004

C.C. - PHIL RILEY  
C.C. - DONNA RIDING

Mr Harry Catherall/Cllr Mohammed Khan  
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Blackburn  
BB1 7DY

4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Mr Catherall/Cllr Khan

RE: Petition on Behalf of Taxi Trade

We would like Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council to consider the following which have been a concern for some time and are impacting on customers and the Taxi trade. We pay a significant fee for licensing and therefore would like to see better co-operation between the council and trade to improve the image of the taxi trade and service to both residents and visitors.

We feel that there are areas of policy which could help the council, the Taxi trade and customers.

1. Use of Pennine Reach bus lanes –
  - a. We would like you to allow taxis to use the bus lanes and consider taxis as a form of public transport. It is very noticeable that the lanes are empty for the majority of time with so few buses.
  - b. By allowing the taxi trade to use bus lanes it would allow customers a better incentive and an alternative to using their own cars. It would also encourage taxi sharing for common journeys.
  - c. We would as a trade give priority to buses.
  - d. 90% of the time the bus lanes are empty.
2. Private hire drop off / pick up points around the Town Centres –
  - a. The taxi trade is targeted by over zealous Traffic Wardens. There is no common sense. Where are we supposed to pick up and drop off? Could there not be designated areas of spots around the Town centres to help both customers wanted to be picked up and dropped off?
  - b. In many instances we are transporting older people or people who can't drive or use buses. Surely this is an important service to the council as it brings trade into the Town and also helps prevent older people becoming housebound or isolated. We have many regular customers who come together to the Town for lunch or to have tea together.
3. Independent testing station --

- a. The council has been running its own testing station for many years now and has the monopoly. This would not be so much an issue but we feel that the testing is too harsh and testers are very picky.
  - b. A further independent station would give confidence to the trade and a choice.
  - c. Other Towns and cities have several authorised testing stations, why can't Blackburn.
4. We want to work with the Council and Police to improve the safety, security and image of the Taxi Trade -
- a. We recognise that the reputation of the taxi trade and the borough goes hand in hand therefore we want to ensure that it is of the highest standard.
  - b. Areas where we could work together could be on training for taxi drivers on things like safeguarding, personal security, language, health and wellbeing, crime prevention.
  - c. Use of technology for in cab cameras, GPS tracking etc.
  - d. Accredited taxi scheme for assisted shopping/appointments where we can assist in getting older, disabled or vulnerable people to appointments and ensure they are not isolated. In the past there used to be a voucher scheme for Social Services. We thought this worked well and should be re-considered.

We recognise times are difficult for the council and for the Taxi trade. However we believe we need to work together to make sure that the reputation of the taxi trade and the Town is strong.

There have been many negative stories from other Towns. We want to ensure the taxi trade in Blackburn with Darwen is seen as a reliable, trusted and safe trade. One which customers are confident in using where we give the best service. In order for us to do this we believe the council has to start to work with the trade.

Yours faithfully,

Lead petitioner  
On behalf of Taxi Trade Operators





**INTACK PRIVATE HIRE**  
Tel: 263030/693030

Name	Operator
AZMAT KAYANI	INTACK AND 24/7 PH
Fahar ul Islam	" "
INAYAT-ULLAH	" "
M. ISHAKAR	" "
ACTAF Hussain	" "
MUNAWAR SHAH	
ZAHID AHMED	" "
M. Munawar	" "
M. HUSSAIN	" "
MUHAMMAD IRFAN	" "
Nabeed Farukh	" "
Hussain Aziz	" "
ZAHID MAHMOOD	" "
KANIF PATEL	" "
NAYYAR IZBAI	" "
GHULAM FATEH	" "
ARSHAD	
AM. BHATTI	" "
SMER MITTA	" "
MURAD PATEL CHUKU	" " "
ANSAR MAHMOOD	" " "
ISRAR ULHAQ	" "
YAKUB PATEL	" "
MURAD VIKAR	" "

Name	Operator	Signature
Tahir Mahmood	<div data-bbox="651 342 986 472" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           ARCADE TAXIS            94 DARWEN ST            BLACKBURN            BB2 2AJ            Tel: 01254 54555         </div>	
Tariq Hussain		
Sakawat Iqbal		
Mohammad Wafiq		
Asif Malik		
A. Salam Iqbal		
Amjid Mahmood		
Zulfiqar Ali		
M. Parvez		
Rashad Mahmood		
Sabir Hussain		
Shahbaz Ahmed		
Gulbahar		
Mohammed Ali Farooq		
Iqbal Zia		
Mohammed Javed		
Jamal David		
Mohammed Iqbal		
Adnan Hussain		
Arshad Mahmood		
Iftikar Ali		
Nasir Ali		
A. Malik		
Iqbal Malik		
Yakub Sidat		

# B & B Private Hire

4 FRANCE ST.,  
Tel: Blackburn 679327/680600

Name	Operator	Signature
SHAHID SIYAH.	<del>BB</del> B & B	
M. SALEEM PATEL	B & B	
M. ASGHAR	B & B	
TUNAJD ESTAZ	B & B	
M. NADEEM.	B & B	
Ali Nawaz	B & B	
M. Ahmad	B & B	
<del>Shahid</del>	B & B	
S S BENTLEY	B & B	
MOHAMMAD AMIR ABBAS	B & B	
MUJEEB REHMAN	B & B	
M. HASIB	B & B	
T. HEYNORTH	B & B	
S. MAHMOOD	B + B	
S. Whalley	"	
SHAKKAT ALI	B. B	
M. A. REHMAN	B + B	
A. HUSSAIN	B + B	
M. SALIM	B B	
R J GELDER	B B	
ABID Ali	B. B	
ZAIN SAHEEM	B B	
TARIQ MAHMOOD	B & B	
DILSHAD	B. B	