

To: Council
Date: 23 September 2015
Title of Report: Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at the meeting

Introduction

An address made by a member of the public to the Council, registered by the deadline in the Constitution, is summarised below. The response is also summarised. This is not a verbatim transcript.

1. Address as given to Council by Mr Bashir Ahmed in connection with Item 11

I would like to thank the Council for allowing me to speak. I would like to raise three points. While we welcome and endorse the majority of the recommendations in the report, I would strongly oppose three of these.

First, there is an objection to removal of door stickers from all private hire vehicles in Oxford. These reassure passengers that the vehicle is a legitimate private hire vehicle and in event of problems allows easy identification. Second, there is an objection to the removal of the badge stating 'no booking no ride' - it makes it abundantly clear the vehicle has to be pre-booked. Third, there is an objection to the permitting of black MPVs as private hire vehicles. These can be licensed as hackneys. The change will cause huge confusion about what is a hackney and what is a private hire. Please reinstate these for the security and safety of the travelling public.

2. Response by the Chair of the General Licensing Committee to Mr Bashir Ahmed.

As part of her introduction to the report Councillor Clarkson addressed these points:

There will be stickers (identifying the vehicle) inside the vehicle where passengers can clearly see these. Out of town private hire cars authorities do not require door stickers and it is difficult to justify making these a condition of our licences.

Removing the need for the 'no booking no ride' badge places responsibility fully and properly on the driver to refuse any hire without a booking, rather than expecting the passenger to check.

On the licensing of MPVs, in London there is no requirement for hackney carriages to be black, and not all our hackneys are black, and it seems to cause little confusion.

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