

Dear Anna

Thank you for consulting the county council on options to change the deadline date for Hackney carriage vehicles (HCVs) licensed in Oxford to meet your 'ULEV taxi' standard, which requires vehicles to be zero-emission capable, with a minimum 70 miles zero-emission range and CO2 emissions below 50g/km.

Along with most of the other district councils in Oxfordshire, the city council regulates HCV and private hire vehicle (PHV) emissions through the licensing process.

All PHVs, and HCVs licensed outside Oxford, are charged a daily fee to enter the Oxford the Oxford zero-emission zone (ZEZ) pilot unless they are fully zero-emission. HCVs licensed in Oxford are exempt from charges in the ZEZ pilot, on the basis that they will need to meet the city council's ULEV taxi standard to operate anywhere in the city.

The county council strongly supports the continued regulation of HCV and PHV emissions by the city and district councils through the taxi licensing process as this supports the aims of the Oxford zero-emission zone and the county council's broader aims to reduce transport emissions. The city council's approach is already delivering results, with around 30 zero emission capable HCVs already in operation and a steadily improving fleet of PHVs with a high proportion of hybrid-electric vehicles.

*The county council appreciates there is a balance to be struck between emissions standards and the financial realities facing the HCV and PHV trades, with changing travel habits and increased operating costs. However, air quality remains a pressing public health concern, so we encourage the city council to be as ambitious as possible in setting emissions standards and would **urge the shortest possible delay to the "zero-emission capable" requirement**, especially after the planned implementation date for the wider ZEZ (if the scheme is approved following consultation).*

Many thanks

Martin

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