

## Appendix 1: Additional Safeguarding Proposals Consultation: Talking Point Questionnaire

<b>1. Are you a regular user of taxis and/ or a private hire service?</b>	
Yes 86 57%	No 66 43%

<b>2. Are you a taxi and/ or a private hire licence holder?</b>	
Yes 126 83%	No 25 17%

<b>3. Do you feel it is important that applicants to the taxi and private hire trade are subject to a 'fit and proper' person test at the point of entry to the licensed trade?</b>	
Yes 128 91%	No 13 9%

<b>4. An enhanced DBS check is currently undertaken at the point of application to become a licensed driver. Do you feel it is important that applicants entering this country from other countries provide a full criminal disclosure from the country of their birth?</b>	
Yes 114 84%	No 21 16%

<b>5. Taxi and private hire licence holders must currently undertake an enhanced DBS check every 3 years. Do you think that licence holders should undertake a further DBS check:</b>				
Every Year 24 18%	Every 3 years 31 23%	Every 5 years 42 31%	Other 19 14%	No opinion 18 13%
<b>Other:</b>				
1. WHEN CONCERNS ARE RAISED BY PUBLIC OR OFFICIALS				
2. DBS is enough				
3. Another DBS check from another organisation				
4. 10yrs				
5. No				
6. No				
7. If there is a reason then yes				
8. 10				
9. Only once				
10. No needs when have taxi licence				
11. 10 years				
12. No needs at all to do this				
13. 10 years as its another money making venture from the council				

14. If free yearly
15. only 1 check before applicatio/test no every three or g years police system should cover the individuals
16. Once
17. 10 years
18. 10 years
19. 3 years and also when a serious complaint is received

<b>6. Please add any further comments you wish to be considered:</b>
1. If public safety is a priority as we are being led to believe and as everyone is fully aware more crimes are committed against females when the jump into unbooked private hire vehicles which plying for hire on a daily basis. If the council is that concerned then this issue would be addressed, even the public are fully aware that council allows this to happen, perhaps a secondary sticker on all private hire vehicles as it's done in other cities advising the public it's not a taxi and has no insurance unless pre booked! At least it will deter and educate at the same time
2. In my view criminal convictions which are spent should not be a barrier to obtaining a licence, even though they will still show up on CRB check however anyone who has perpetrated serious crimes, IE. Sexual crimes of any nature, murder, etc etc especially child related crime. Further more any non resident UK.should not be eligible to apply for a licence for 2 years and also obtain a CRB check from there country of origin.
3. In view of the potential vulnerabilities of many taxi and private hire customers, encompassing learning disabilities, autism, acquired brain injuries, dementia and physical impairments, its is essential that effective control of vetting and licensing remains wholly in the control of the Local Authority licensing sections if the safeguarding of customers is to be secured and guaranteed.
4. DBS checks are carried out by the same organisation. If he/ she has already got a DBS check the council would be in a strong position to say that we have carried out all necessary precautions to make sure the applicant is a fit and proper person. I know teachers that also work in the private hire industry. A character reference from the head teacher as well may be a good idea as they are people in authority.
5. DBS checks are essential
6. I cannot see how criminal disclosure from drivers born outside the UK will help as not all countries law enforcement agencies operate to the same standard as the UK's.
7. Every taxi should have cctv camera provided by council.
8. I think the Taxi Dept are doing a good job regarding the licensing of drivers. I wish the age criteria for cars was a bit more lenient rather than 5 years vehicle up to 7 years from registration should be allowed. Also smaller engine cars and model size. Cars are a lot safer, efficient, bigger and powerful than 10 years ago.
9. I think a three strikes and out system should be in place, as I am fed up with bad press given to this industry. There needs to be much more stringent checks and punishments for faulty cars plying for hire etc.
10. Anybody wanting to be a taxi or private hire driver should not be against a check on their background from where they come from,for the safety of the traveling public.
11. I think the licensing staff at torre road should drink less tea and get on with the job in hand.
12. All taxi and private hire drivers should be able to provide a complete history of

themselves for at least 5 years prior to the granting of a licence. Failure to do this and allow some drivers to give only a partial history or rely on character references are putting the public at risk. We could end up with a criminal being sponsored by a criminal if certain drivers are exempted from a full 5 year DBS

13. Past record of drivers should speak for it self, those drivers who have previous convictions should be checked more often .self declaration should be sufficient and a db's every five years should be enough rather than increase cost to all individual drivers,

14. Taxi drivers are unsafe and you did nothing.so many taxi drivers have been attacked .if you would improve you would get quality people as taxi driver.

15. the cost of the DBS check should be paid for by the council ,just as the NHS stands the cost to doctors and nurses

16. It is important to understand that Leeds taxi licensing is out of touch as private hire driver should be able to pick public when hailed when there are no other public transport available without being in fear of getting prosecuted. The main responsibility of licensing the trade is to provide safe services for our members of public to get to their destination safely this includes driver being checked for suitability and vehicle being fit and proper to carry passengers. So why private hire is restricted to provide this when the public is in need of this service in absence of public transport. The booking should be able to be taken by driver n forwarded to operator for registration. Pls consider this and breakaway from old practices that are not fit for this day and age.. Modernise your rules and reduce costs

17. Leeds is a wonderful & safe place to work

18. I think taxi or priver't hire drivers should be frim the area there are working and not come from other areas to work takes all the work away from all the people in that area. For example if you work in Leeds you should live in Leeds and not be able to come from Bradford or other places to work here.

19. When a licensed driver is issued a badge then the police must be informed as if theirs a issue then police will email licensing....

20. Spot checks on DBS in between 3 year checks

21. Bonnet stickers shouldn't be compulsory

22. All driving or criminal convictions should automatically be sent to VLE by the courts.

23. You MUST make it more well known to Travelling Public that you WANT to know about poor driving, bad conversation, talk around the Syrian Terrorist Situation etc etc Its got to be made easier for people to call you and to know you are who they should tell.

24. I wholeheartedly agree with the safety of passengers but would like the licencing commitee to have a look at the safety of all its paying licence holders too.

25. although the public safety must be top priority but at the same time some thing must be in place to protect the innocent drivers who become victims of certain women passengers, who won't pay the fair and say to driver if you don't let me go i will say you molested me. I think the only way forward with this is cctv, but a generous grant should be given towards it. I also think the majority of drivers got NVQ and yet they can't even write their own address, doesn't that tell you some thing about the person who has NVQ, it tells me that person is not honest and he is not fit and proper person because he got his NVQ by other means. I would strongly recommend that any person with a criminal record, shouldn't be given a licence, also at the renewal every body must be given a simple test that a 14 year old can do

easily, this test must be done at the window where the paper work is done in front of the cashier and any person who can't complete won't be given a licence. Its about time council made its mind up, it either want public safety or more money from each unfit person who gets a badge. Thanks.

26. How about the safety of the private hire driver, how many time driver have to deal with aggressive behaviour without reporting it to the police, and how many time peoples get into private hire car without paying and it go unreported because must driver don't have the time to report such a crime, to you peoples who work there one driver behaviour is a decision for 1000 drivers

27. The driver how don't work why thy need dbs check?

28. I think it should be not forced to tje licence holder to pay for yearly checks it should be included in the annual licence fee

29. only give the plate to badge holders not investors, do not transfer the plate with out badgeone

30. every effort should be made to make sure the drivers are of good character and are able to provide the public with all round excellent service, as you know this is not always the case there are too many bad drivers out there with bad attitudes.The process for taxi/private hire is far too easy. A lot of drivers can not speak English and do not have much knowledge of the Leeds area.

31. EU residents and non EU residents should not be able to obtain a licence if they have not been resident in the UK for a minimum of 5 years. This is the only way to have a robust policy and make sure people are fit and proper.

32. U feel that taxi drivers are discrimated when you make most points regarding safety of public. The more you bring up the issue the more uncomfortable we as taxi drivers feel, you purposely make us out to be criminals in the publics eye.

33. These are hard working people always transport us all the time, I hope no criminal enter this country any time, when ever we travel any where these are those who take us, we shall give them respect and love instead of making life more difficult for them.

34. Taxi department should give black&white plates to private hire driver who perform their duty really well'and the enforcement officers should be treat equal to all drivers from both parties' and can u please change at least 1 day timming of stickers due to drivers working night shift and hard to get up and get the stickers done frm leeds.thanx

35. If someone already has an enhanced dbs form they should not be required to purchase another one. A few years ago the disability awareness course cost me forty pounds and having been an ambulance driver for six years I felt this was unfair.

36. the taxi test should be the same for hackney and phd. It is not fitting that lcc should give an inferior service. From personnel experience at least 60% of drivers, hackney and phd, have very little knowledge of the highway code. To address this a five yearly test would help immensely. When so called professional drivers are unaware of the rules of the road, the safety of the public is put at risk.

37. All check for UK and non UK residents should be made at the application for license and a further 'homeland' check for non UK residents. The all shall have one every 5 years

38. Non english speaking licence holders, must get education in reading, and speaking english, for greater communication with customers they provide a service to.

39. I you should extende the badge period for 3 years every time on the renewal of

the badge must check DBS

40. The easiest way to stop criminal activity is by better enforcement every single night of the week private hire vehicles are parked illegally causing obstruction to other vehicles plying illegally which also means no insurance if I drive my private vehicle without insurance I'm in serious trouble

41. I think that a level playing field is required, between all taxi/private hire companies no matter where in the uk they operate from or what council is licensing them, and add rules and regulations to one set of drivers and not another is unfair, and could have cost implications, it is a pointless exercise to put rules to protect to public in place in Leeds, if that member of the leeds public gets a taxi/Private hire else were and is not protected, Leeds city council could always sit there smuggle and say we do our bit, but is dose not get away from the fact a member of the public is put at risk, How is the general public going to know which councils operate what rules to protect them and were they must be on guard to unsafe operation practice,

42. when apply for the dbs check it only should be in this country rather then asking from the country the person born, just delaying the process and wasting the time.

43. Any driver who commit crime in or outside the job should take licence from him until his punishment is finished. If any drive commit crime or blame come to him court should have to resolve that crime in days or weeks, not months or years

44. DBS checks from other countries may not be upto par with this country and may have little or no value on the paper it's written on. In these circumstances the citizen must be living in this country for a minimum of 5 years to obtain a licence and to be considered fit and proper.

45. DBS checks and enhanced DBS checks. Is there anyway that the council can, working in conjunction with the DBS service minimise costs to someone who has a standard DBS check done with one organisation and an enhanced DBS check done with another? Sincerest apologies for not bringing this matter up earlier.

46. These extra dbs ckecks should not require the driver to pay any costs.

47. Bradford council charges Â£44.50 for a DBS check every 3 years. Leeds has proposed Â£70 due to admin costs. More frequent DBS checks will cost how much from the council if approved to do so? Please include exactly how much you propose to charge in your report?

48. Drivers who are sacked for flagging or pirating, with holding rent or data equipment, smoking in vehicles or taxi offices. should be considered unfit and proper persons to hold a licence

49. Existing licence holders should not need to have a DBS every 3 years. It should be 5 years at most, or not at all. It's important at the beginning for a new starter, as there is no record for them at the licencing point. But any instances of prosecutions are much easier to follow once a person is a licence holder. Having a DBS check every three years smacks of money making. We have to pay for all this. It's just another burden on licence holders... 5 yearly medicals, DBS checks, reduction of age for licensed vehicles (even though they are more reliable, more comfortable, more fuel efficient, more eco friendly, and above all else SAFER than ever before. Makes no logical sense to reduce their lifespan), plate and badge fees each had a 21% increase a year or so back which was far too much. The list goes on.

50. More effort should be made to stamp out plying for hire, the public should be made further aware not to flag down a car due to insurance problems and on the personal safety aspects of flagging.

51. 1 renewal fee should be paid once if you hold a license for both private hire and

hackney carriage. 2. Private hire cars should be able to use bus lanes like the hackney carriage do, as customers complain, why are private hire drivers are not allowed to use the bus lane.

52. For God sake make at least only one law who give a little safety a little favoure a little confidence a little relieve to a taxi driver don't make all law against them

53. bus lanes should be open to private hire drivers too

54. Bradford TPH licensing do a DBS check every 3 years at a cost of Â£44.50. DVLA mandate for Â£6. I certainly hope our costs are justified to the council and more clearly illustrated to the licensing committee.