

Appendix 1

Road Safety Act 2006 – Consultation

- In July 2007 the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Section commenced consultation with both the existing licensed Private Hire trade in the district and those potential Operators identified via their advertisements in both the Yellow Page and Thomson Telephone Directories. Internet sites advertising such services in Leeds were also identified.
- Existing Private Hire Operators were questioned via a paper survey to obtain their views on how potential Operators should be treated. The following points summarise their views although it should be noted that out of the 123 Operator's contacted only 17 have responded to date.
 - 94% of respondents believe drivers should take a driver safety test appropriate to the type of vehicle they intend to drive.
 - 83% of respondents believe licence fees should broadly mirror those in place for the existing Private Hire trade
 - 88% of respondents believe the Council should issue distinct licence types with specific Conditions for work they undertake
 - 82% of respondents believe the new range of vehicle categories should be allowed some variance to Conditions in respect of livery and licensing plates.
 - 94% of respondents believe applicants should be subject to the same safety checks as the existing Private Hire trade prior to being granted a licence.
- A general consultation overview document and questionnaire were circulated to circa 350 Operators identified as potentially being affected by the change to the licensing law. Only 25 responses were received, of which 11 respondents believed they would be affected by the changes. The same consultation documentation was posted on the Leeds City Council website and can be viewed at www.leeds.gov.uk/taxis.
- Face to face consultation meetings have taken place with respondents to the potential Operator consultation, which includes local members of the National Limousine Association and representatives of the local Executive and Chauffeur Hire trade. Their views are represented within the licensing report.