



**For and on behalf of**  
**All Wokingham Hackney Carriage Drivers**  
Date: 27/05/2018

For The attention of  
Mrs Karen Court  
Mrs Julia O'Brian  
Mrs Laura Driscoll  
and all Taxi Licensing officers

I have been asked to write this letter in frustration as the result of increased distress among all Wokingham Hackney Carriage Drivers who have professionally converted vehicles recognised by DVLA, in response to your requested assessment on our vehicles and consultation to amend existing policy in the hope that all of you in Wokingham council Taxi licensing OFFICE will have a better understanding and an open and educated view to the reality of our very much un-respected profession.

**For your information.**

All our vehicles ( Peugeot partner tepee, Citroen Berlingo, VW Caddy , etc) (Please find enclosed printed photos as examples) which are professionally converted with permanent and none removable ramps and lowered floor specifically designed and constructed for wheelchair use by one of the most reputable mobility companies in the world ( Allied Mobility ) and are used all over UK as Taxi's have an entrance height clearance of 57 inches or as you like to know (1440mm) and they also come with Nationwide accepted **M1** certificate from the manufacturer which over rules your requested **IVA** test what has been proven time after time to be absolutely useless in the past, hence the cause of all your past mistakes.

Even the famous UK Taxi industry's icon; the Black Cab that are authorized and used all over the country including London, Reading and every other major city, are approximately 54 inches ( 1370mm ) high at the entrance .

Therefore, we are all amazed and can not help but wonder **IF** the above vehicles are NOT adequate in your professional opinion as *office workers* and are currently subjected to scrutiny and challenge by yourselves as *professional wheelchair handlers* then would you please advise on the vehicles that you, contrary to the rest of the UK; believe to be adequate for this job.

Will it be a Long wheel base extra high top Sprinter Van or mother of all road transport vehicles; the all mighty 44 foot Articulated lorry ?

**Please answer the following questions to all HC Drivers ( Not just to me )**

- a- Please explain how and on what bases you came up with the idea of 1500 mm or 59 inches for entrance height ?
- b- Please explain who has come up with these interesting ideas and what sort of experience and wheelchair / mobility / motor vehicle expertise and qualification do they poses ?
- c- Please define the wording you have used repeatedly in your letters and policies "Mature adult" in wheelchair ? ( Age / Height /width , etc ? )  
(as there is a considerable height deference between you and I whom I would like to believe can be considered as "Mature Adults").

**Finally**

With all due respect as human being and your position with in the local council organization, as you have proven to be totally un-knowledgeable on this field who are constantly **HARRASSING** all taxi drivers with professionally converted vehicles on this unnecessary and un-required service in Wokingham, may we please suggest strongly that **YOU** go for training on this field with experts who have spent years in research and development of these vehicles, companies like Allied Mobility ,

Also , Could we please ask for some of you to spent some time perhaps a month on the road in a TAXI as drivers and by the Ranks to observe the fact that wheelchair users **NEVER** come to the rank to get a Taxi, and the chances of seeing one is 1 in 1000,000 , (( I haven't seen or done a wheelchair job form the RANK or from the road side in 17 years)) and those colleagues of mine who have provided this service were given the jobs by **private hire firms**.

Wheelchair users in this area either have their own vehicle which are subsidised heavily by government mobility benefits or they use the phone to call for a suitable wheelchair converted vehicle from a **private hire firm**, after all you are now asking for all our phone numbers to be added to the list of service providers as private hire companies even though we work of the ranks as Hackney Carriage drivers which would result in total confusion to any one searching through hundreds of names and numbers on the list let alone a disable and wheelchair user, where it can be simplified just to a few licensed private hire firms, therefore, don't you think that this policy that you are unreasonably and aggressively enforcing should apply to all private hire firms rather than all Hackney carriage taxis ?

I would like to thank you for your time reading this letter and await for your wise and educated reply.

For and on behalf of all Hackney Carriage Drivers in Wokingham.