

TITLE	Taxi Roof Signs
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 17 September 2013
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Paul Anstey, Joint Service Delivery Manager for Environmental Health & Licensing

<p>OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY To introduce a standard taxi sign to include Wokingham Borough Council logo and licensing information for all Hackney Carriage vehicles to enhance Public Safety.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION That Members review and consider the consultation information received from Hackney Carriage Proprietors in regard to the proposal of the introduction of a standard taxi roof sign for Hackney Carriage vehicles</p>
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT Review and consider the results from the consultation received from Hackney Carriage Proprietors</p>

Background

At the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals committee on 10 July 2013 members were requested to consider the introduction of a standard taxi sign to include Wokingham Borough Council logo and licensing information for all Hackney Carriage vehicles on the grounds of Public Safety.

Wokingham Borough Council Hackney Carriage vehicles are required to display an illuminated sign on the top of their vehicle which depicts that it is available for hire; this may include the words TAXI or FOR HIRE.

The proposal was to introduce a standardised roof top sign for all Hackney Carriage vehicles to enhance Public Safety. Members requested a consultation with all Hackney Carriage Proprietors which was completed by way of a letter and comments form with the consultation period closure date of 16 August 2013.

There were 47 responses by way of the comments forms which are outlined in Appendix I, two individual letters which are included as Appendix II and III, the petition that was received by the Licensing and Appeals Committee in regard to both the Taxi Roof Sign and the Tariff change Appendix IV and 11 emails as Appendix V. There was one driver that agreed with the proposal.

Some of the comments included concerns in regard to the height of the vehicles with the introduction on the new taxi roof sign to be too high to enter airports etc. and one driver who is currently leasing his car had been informed he would be unable to drill into his roof. Several drivers came into view the proposed taxi sign.

In regard to the concerns of the height restrictions we have included height information from various airports and also some heights of the larger vehicles that are currently licensed as Appendix VI.

Recommendation

For the Licensing and Appeals Committee to consider the comments and views of the Hackney Carriage Proprietors and for the Committee to decide as to whether they wish to introduce a standardised taxi roof sign to enhance Public Safety for Wokingham Borough Council residents.

Analysis of Issues

To consider standard top taxi signs to ensure Public Safety with the introduction of licensing information of local residents using the local Hackney Carriage vehicles making them more identifiable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Not Applicable		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Not Applicable		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Not Applicable		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
None

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services and priorities?)
Not Applicable

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
None

List of Background Papers
Google VW website

Contact Yvonne Jones	Service Licensing Service
Telephone No 01635 519 519	Email Yvonne.Jones@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 22 August 2013	Version No. One

TOP HAT CONSULATION 2013 - EXPIRY DATE 16 AUGUST 2013

Appendix I

Name/Operator	Badge Number	Agree	Disagree	Comments		
M Hussain	DD780		x	Unwanted cost would effect the height restriction in place when entering , car parks, airports, shopping centres and other facilities that apply high restrictions. Some jobs require that vehicle don't carry a roof sign to coporate work. Sign too large and takes up to much boot space		
M O'Donnell			x	Vehicle is leased would not have permission to place on the roof if drilling needed.		
F Fateh	DD701		x	If you give to us free of cost, wishes to agree and display it. Now we are suffering to service you already put the bump for us so take back to tariff 4 - 6		
A Akcay	DD436		x	No change to tariff would like to keep as it is		
N Mehmood	DD690		x	Please try to recude the cost and increase the business with proper improved systems and ignore the outlook like taxi signs		
Q Mahmood	DD689		x			
T Abbas	DD727		x			
A Mehmood	DD635		x			
A Mahmood	DD593		x	Well done WBC you doing good job always give us hard time. I do not understand who give you people those ideas. I been taxi almost ten years I do not understand whats wrong our old taxi signs new taxi signs does not mean we will have more business. Its mean we will have to pay for new taxi signs.		
H Ghafoor	DD761		x			
S Galani	DD765		X			

A Qayyum	DD677		x	I am totally disagree to introduction of this new taxi sign. Leave it as it is thanks		
S Haque	DD679		x			
J Akhtar	DD360		x			
M Mehrban	DD347		x	Letter Appendix II		
K Gurm	DD680		x	No change needed		
A Rafique	DD777		x			
K Ahmed	DD715		x			
M Nadeeem	DD672		x			
T Mahmood	DD431		x			
P Akhtar	DD499		x			
M Yasin	DD342		x			
I Akram	DD725		x			
M Javeed	DD254		x			
M Saeed	DD757		x			
M Ayaz	DD714		x			
M Mansoor	DD626		x	Too big not happy with this		
W Ahmad	DD705		x			
A Siddique	DD726	x		Its about time		
A Khan	DD631		x	No thanks please sell it to someone else		
A Mahmood	DD420		x			
E Roberts	DD021		X	Money is for paying bills gas lighting food rent tax car maintenance etc. not for decorating your taxi with hackney taxi signs. That a taxi sign that I have that does the job. I forgot you can add Police, C Heating, plate, badge, hackney tests doctor fee, tyres, etc. etc. and the last bill a coffin		
A Abdullaev	DD704		x	I strongly object the new roof sign. As we are already incurring excessive costs		
S Munir	DD306		x	Who is going to buy my used roof sign? And why is it necessary to buy the new standard roof sign		
A Mahmood	DD530		x	Letter Appendix III		
M Behroozi	DD547		x	Letter Appendix IV		

J Sidikhov			x	see email at end of report (Appendix V)		
S Galani	DD765		x	see email at end of report		
N Hussain	DD242		x	see email at end of report		
A Khan	DD745		x	see email at end of report		
W Khan	PHD322		x	see email at end of report		
M Najam	DD775		x	see email at end of report		
A Mahmood	DD708		x	see email at end of report		
A Khan			x	see email at end of report		
M Jamil			x	see email at end of report		
I Hussain			x	see email at end of report		
M Rashid	DD746		x	see email at end of report		

Mr M. Mehrban
5 Broadmark Road
Slough Berks
SL2 5PT

5th, August 2013

Taxi Licensing Office
West Berkshire &
Wokingham Borough Council
PO Box 155 - Shute End
Wokingham Berkshire
RG40 1WW



Driver Badge No: DD347

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Standard Taxi Roof Sign

I disagree to the new standard taxi roof sign for the following reasons:

There is no reason *or* an issue for a new standard taxi roof sign and this is just another nail in the coffin for 'Taxi Drivers'.

West Berkshire & Wokingham Borough Council may have their own self-interests, for example to profit from the new taxi roof signs with partnership to the person selling. However, the taxi drivers should not be penalised for someone else's profit, when there is no requirement.

Furthermore, the taxi roof signs that taxi drivers are currently using are of a perfectly good working order and the taxi drivers will not be able to sell the used taxi signs to replace the new standard taxi signs as suggested.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mehrban'.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF 50 PENCE?

WHAT CAN YOU BUY WITH 50 PENCE?

ALMOST EVERY THING. COST MORE THEN ONE POUND.

SO, WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS?

WHAT CENTURY DO THEY LIVE IN?

REGARDING TAXI ROOF SIGNS

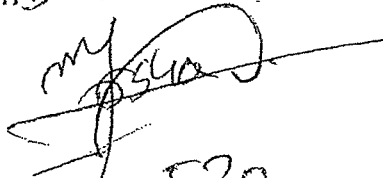
HAS THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OR THE PERSON OR PERSON ADVISING OF SUCH IDEA HAS EVER CONSIDER THE FACT THAT WITH ALL THESE INFORMATION ADDED TO ROOF SIGN AS WELL AS CLEAR LARGE FONT STATING TAXI WOULD MAKE THESE ROOF SIGNS SO LARGE IN SIZE WHEN PLACED ON MOST HIGH VEHICLE WOULD MAKE THEM TOO HIGH AND INPOSSIBLE FOR MOST HEIGHT RESTRICTED AREAS SUCH AS ALL AIRPORT CAR PARK IN UK.

ARE THE COUNCIL MEMBERS DECIDING ON THIS IDEA WOULD LIKE TO STOP TAXI TRADE ON THESE AREAS?

HOW WOULD THOSE MEMBERS FEEL

WHEN THE DRIVER IS UNABLE TO TAKE
THEM FOR THEIR FLIGHT TO AIRPORT
TERMINAL OR COLLECT THEM AFTER THEIR
TRIP DUE TO BEING UNABLE TO ENTER
THESE PREMISES?

ARSHAD MAHMOOD


DD No: 530

To Wokingham council Licensing committee

Urgent

Regarding Taxi Roof Signs

Has the council members or the person or persons advising of such idea has ever consider the fact that with all these information added to the roof sign as well as clear large font stating **TAXI** would make these roof signs so large in size when placed on most high vehicles would make them too high and impossible for most height restricted areas such as all airport car parks in UK such as Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted.

Are the council members deciding on this idea would like to stop taxi trade on these areas ?
How would those council members feel when the driver is unable to take them for their flight to airport terminal or collect them after their trip due to being unable to enter these premises ?
What happens to those especially adapted new Taxi's with permanent TAXI roof signs that can not be changed ? Do they have to display 2 signs ?

Regarding the tariff change 4 - 6 for vehicles with more than 4 passenger seats.

When Public transports such as Trains or Buses who are subsidized by the government, increase their ticket costs,

Do they ask for public consultation ?
Would they ever consider reducing their ticket cost at any time ?
When other costs, such as fuel , Insurance, Maintenance increases on daily bases and NEVER gets reduced again, Does that go in to public consolation ?
When Council increases their licensing fees or residents council Tax every year, Have they ever been for public consultation ? or does it ever get reduced regardless of how many people complain ?

How many members of public actually replied to this consultation
????????????????

This Idea and inconsiderate decision by some people who obviously have NO idea of this trade and possibly have never used or will use this service *is an insult to injury*, when we are forced to purchase / adapt / maintain these large vehicles for the purpose of being able to carry WHEEL CHAIR passengers that do NOT exist in this town and lets face it since none of them are DISABLE friendly, we have already lost the chance of providing that service to majority of elderly citizens residing here in this borough .

(ie. I have had 3 wheelchair passenger in the first 3 years of my service at the time when I could use a saloon vehicle, they wanted to sit at the front with their wheelchair folded in the boot, **2** of them urinated on my front passenger seat and 3rd **ran** with out paying) and no more for the past almost 9 years with this especially adapted high vehicle!!!!!!

So where is the business in that ?

What is the value of 50 pence ?

What can you buy with 50 pence ? (A cup of coffee ?) I guess not, what do you think ?

Almost every thing cost more than £1

So, whose idea was this ? what century do they live in ?

If any council member work over their contracted hours (Ie. 40 hours per week), would they expect an over time rate of 50% (time and half) extra per their hourly rate or would they be happy to accept **50 pence** extra ?

From 1st of August 2013 when the tariff change has taken place,

People who have complained regarding an additional 50% surcharge when using vehicle with more than 4 passenger seats have to request 2 x 4seater taxis and be forced to pay 100% extra, since no one is happy or be willing to carry more than 4 passengers and be insulted by 50 pence when the costs to the driver will be considerably higher.

We urge you to reconsider urgently since we are struggling already with all these high costs in this trade with no increase in our tariff rate in years due to current economical climate.

Thank you

	Name	Badge Number	Plate Number
1	AMJAD IT TARAR	DD673	Hc151
2	MARIUSZ DWOBOPOLSKI	DD 782	Hc 80
3	PARVEZ AKHTAR	DD499	Hc152
4	Adalat Khan	DD631	Hc164
5	SYED-ARSHAD-MUNIR	DD306	Hc 101
6	MOHAMMED. YASIN	DP 342	Hc 181
7	Faisal Ali Fateh	DD701	Hc 153
8	RASHIDAL GURM	DD026	Hc096
9	MOHAMMAD MANSOOR	DD626	
10	ARIF MAHMOOD	DD625	
11	A RAJA	DD700	
12	Waqas Imtiaz	DD762	
13	Z GULZAR	DD707	
14	M Sarwar	DD737	
15	S Hussain	DD730	
16	Asif Ali	DD665	
17	ABDUL MUHAMMAD	DD465	Hc 29
18	MA Saeed	DD757	
19	W Raib	DD772	
20	Z Ishaq	DD740	

	Name	Badge Number	Plate Number
1	Talat Mahmood	DD 778	
2	Choudry Z Iqbal	DD 454	
3	Abid Mahmood	DD 753	
4	M Usman Malik	DD 767	
5	S. Haque	DD 679	
6	Z. Ali	DD 794	
7	S. Hussain	DD 637	
8	Chaudry Imran Naeem	DD 692	
9	M AYUB	DD 440	
10	Amjad Mahmood	DD 708	
11	Imtiaz Ahmed	DD 685	
12	Azhar Mahmood	DD 526	
13	M Siddique	DD 533	
14	Toqeer Younis	DD 698	
15	Mohammad Haroon	DD 595	
16	M Ilyas	DD 285	
17	Abdul Qayyum	DD 677	
18	Arshad Siddique	DD 726	
19			
20			

	Name	Badge Number	Plate Number
1	H A GHAFOR	DD761	41
2	M. Amin	DD432	HC281
3	Syed Gillani	DD768	86
4	ERIC ROBERT'S	DD 21	91
5	M. ASHRAF	DD346	189
6	Nasir Mahmood.	DD-690	199
7	Nasir Mahmood	689	199
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	Name	Badge Number	Plate Number
1	Philip Woodham	DDS80	07719971442 60
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Yvonne Jones

From: Licensing
Sent: 12 August 2013 15:52
To: Yvonne Jones
Subject: FW: New roof sign

Elizabeth Standing
Technical & Business Support
West Berkshire & Wokingham Environmental Health & Licensing

Direct Dial 0118 974 6766

Borough Alert website www.wokingham.gov.uk/borough-alert

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2013 15:18
To: Licensing
Subject: New roof sign

Dear Licensing,

Further to letter regarding new roof taxi signs I would like to oppose this because:

- 1) All vehicles has an adequetely lit roof signs which are easily recognisable.
- 2) As wheelchair access is now a requirement, taxi drivers are purchasing vehicle purposely build as taxi vehicle. This vehicles comes with Taxi signs already built into the vehicle body.
- 3) Introducing new signs for pricate hire vehicles would only confuse people and private hire vehicles would be taken for Hackney Carriage vehicle as one cannot see the difference at night time!

There are more reasons. But my main question would be - what is wrong with current roof signs?

Kind regards
Jahongir Sidikov

Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2013 16:15
To: Licensing
Subject: Roof sign

Hi,

I hereby want to say that I oppose the idea of new roof signs.

Regards,
Syed Galani
DD765

Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2013 17:24
To: Licensing

I am against the roof signs for the Wokingham private hire taxis.

Taxi badge number: 242

Mr Najmul Hussain

Sent from my iPhone

Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2013 18:46
To: Licensing
Subject: Roof sign for Private hire

Hi

I Atif Azeem Khan driver badge number DD745 would like to record my response in **against** the enforcement of roof sign for private hire vehicles as it would be another extra expense on delivers head along with many other expanses and It will increase the chances of touting and it will encourage people to flag down private hire vehicles and this will end up in the trouble between hackney and private hire drivers.

Many thanks

Atif Azeem Khan

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2013 20:16
To: Licensing
Subject: Roof sign for Private hire

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: Atif <atifazimkhan@yahoo.com>
Date: 12/08/2013 18:47 (GMT+00:00)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Roof sign for Private hire

Hi

I Waqas Qais Khan driver badge number PHD 322 would like to record my response in **against** the enforcement of roof sign for private hire vehicles as it would be another extra expense on delivers head along with many other.

Many thanks

Waqas Qais Khan

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2013 21:23
To: Licensing
Subject: Against enforcement of roof sign

Dear Sir/madam

I Muhammad Najam badge no DD775 work as private hire want to record against the enforcement of roof sign as it will incurred another cost.Please record my complaint.

Thanks for cooperation.

Regards

Muhammad Najam

Sent from Galaxy S3 on Three

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Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2013 22:17
To: Licensing
Subject: Roof signs

Badge no dd708

Do not want private hire roof signs

Amjad @ RG Cars and Minibuses

Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2013 12:32
To: Licensing

no need to change tariff or roof singh plz do us favour if you can favour us then plz do not give us hard time

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Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2013 17:03
To: Licensing
Subject: Roof sign laws

Dear Sir/Madam,

I Muhammad Asif Jamil, taxi plate 108 strongly oppose any changes to the council rules in regards of roof signs for private hire due to the cost involve and also the service level required by our customers from private hire.

I believe "first impression is the last" which a roof sign doesn't provide us to excel the executive service required by our Prestige Customers.

Best Wishes,
Muhammad Asif Jamil
0789 40760 23

Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 August 2013 15:42
To: Licensing
Subject: NEW TAXI ROOOF SIGN

Dear EVE,

Reference/Reply: New Taxi roof sign/ light.

With so much going on and gone on! (Refer to minutes of the Extraordinary Licensing and Appeals Committee (13/08/13). With a haemorrhaging? Potential loss of income for most taxi drivers looming, a possible Re-Calibration charge of ABOUT £20 (and the rest). Also if required, new meters supplied and fitted at a crippling cost. Feel its a sensitive time for most men myself included, in having to fork out damn hard earned money over pet vain projects. If WBC wants Wokingham Licensed HC drivers and their taxis (roof signs,included) to resemble their counterparts in west Berkshire . Suggest you start and inspect their table of fares/ prices. Currently they are positioned 10 out of 364 Licensing Councils. To point out Wokingham Council is languishing in 39th place, a 29 place difference. Basingstoke and Deane Council are at 14th place. Even a town like Watford with respect are above Wokingham. Refer to (Private hire and taxi monthly magazine).

Regards

Imran Hussain

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Yvonne Jones

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 August 2013 18:19
To: Licensing
Subject: Roof sign

Hi there

Regarding the roof sign changes we strongly oppose any change. Any kind of extra expenses are unbearable at this business environment. And this change is not going to n prove any kind of service this big ugly wheelchair taxis provide in Wokingham . If there is any change needed that is stop the plates and bring saloon cars. Which are comfortable and economical. Sitting on the ranks for 70-80 hours and taking home 200-300 pounds in a week. It is a shame. I do t know why I am dpi v this Thanks M.

Arshad
Dd746

HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

HEATHROW

Height restrictions apply at all Heathrow terminal car parks and the maximum height is 2.05m, terminal 3/5 car parks do have a high sided vehicle entrances on the ground floors

GATWICK

- Car restrictions: Height restrictions on cars are a maximum of 2.1m. Please note Gatwick official North Terminal does not permit trailers.

BIRMINGHAM

Height restrictions: 7' 1" (2.15m)

LUTON

There are no **height restrictions**, but the **car** park cannot accept large vehicles, for example lorries.

STANSTEAD

No restrictions

