

TITLE	Private Hire, Dual Driver and School and Community Service Driver Medical Examination- Consultation Outcomes
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 19 November 2013
WARD	None Specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Paul Anstey, Joint Service Delivery Manager for Environmental Health & Licensing

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To decide whether to change the driver medical examinations from the current system of using Occupational Health to that of drivers being able to use their own GP, a GP from the same practice or continue to use Occupational Health, following consultation received back from current drivers.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to review and consider the consultation information received from current drivers to change from the current provider, Occupational Health, to the drivers' own GPs, GPs with the same practice or the current provider Occupational Health.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Review and consider the results from the consultation received from all current drivers in regard to the proposed changes of the medical examination to the drivers own GP, GP practice or Occupational Health

Background

At the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals committee on 17 September 2013 members were requested to consider the change of service provider from Occupational Health to the drivers own GP.

At present each applicant on first application and at the intervals indicated below must complete a satisfactory examination by Wokingham Borough Council's nominated Occupational Health Doctor. An authorised officer of Wokingham Borough Council facilitates the appointment. Once a licence has been granted, medical examinations will be required at the following intervals.

AGE	FREQUENCY
18 years to 49 years	Every 5 years
50 years to 65 years	Every 3 years
65 years +	Annually

The driver pays the Council for the medical and this money is held until the Council receives a demand for payment from Occupational Health.

The fee is currently stands at £103 for new applicants with an additional £17 administration fee for existing drivers. This arrangement can, and did create a problem for the Council at the end of the 2012/13 financial year; in that the bill was submitted after the 2012/13 accounts had been signed off internally.

The driver completes a medical form which is scanned to OH. The form provide details which include a photograph of the applicant , applicant's name, address, date of birth and any know medical condition. The driver is given a choice of dates and times for attendance of this examination. We are currently issued with four appointments on a Tuesday which is subject to cancellation and change at sometimes quite short notice. T

The OH then sends a report to the Council stating as to whether or the not the applicant is medically fit. The actual medical report is not seen directly by officers due to the Doctor/Patient confidentiality.

If the recommendation is fit, the licence will be issued subject to other requirements being met. If the recommendation is unfit the licence will be refused, there are occasions when the OH will recommend a referral to the applicants GP which will then result in delays dealing with the application.

PROPOSED CHANGES

To allow drivers to arrange their own medicals with whichever they choose from the following: their own GP, a GP from their own practice or from the current supplier Occupational Health.

In the case of the GP or a GP within the same practice, the doctor would have the applicant's full medical history available to them and would not generally have to refer elsewhere. Where specialist advice may be required the GP would carry this out directly, rather than at present the OHS Physician having to write to the applicants GP

who would then have to provide either direct medical information or make a referral elsewhere. This often delays the processing of applications.

It was also noted that Committee members felt that it was a more appropriate for drivers to use their own GP and suggested that the form be amended to include a box which said " I am **(applicant name)** GP that the GP would have to sign.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

A consultation letter was sent to all Private Hire 146, Dual Drivers 191 and School Drivers 40 a total of 377 requesting as to whether they agreed or disagreed with this proposed change. There were 54 responses by way of a comments form which is outlined in Appendix 1. The majority of drivers (47) were in agreement to the change.

Some of the following comments were made:

"More flexible times as currently has to take time off work and that the GP knows you better and has access to your records more convenient"

"It should be any GP as not NHS GP's offer this service. Good to see forward thinking"

"Only because it's easy for me to park and Doctor knows me"

"Great idea! On about this for years! Keep up the good work"

"What a good idea"

"I think this will make easy for us"

"I think it's a good idea, it would save drivers and their companies' time and money. It's nice to see forward thinking"

"It's much more convenient and much easier"

"Depending on cost"

"Different GP's could charge different prices for medical – it would be a good idea to drop price/fee to £90"

"We're happy with Council system thank you"

"Changing to drivers own GP has potential for abuse. A GP can have a close relationship with some of his/her patients whereas the Occupational Health people do not and will make completely unbiased decision"

Analysis of Issues

Drivers would have the choice to use their own GP or the Council being open to considering a contingency arrangement with drivers where they cannot obtain a timely appointment with their GP or who wish to continue using Occupational Health as their preferred service provider. This would however be on the basis that the driver makes the booking with and payment direct to West Berkshire Occupational Health, medical

records of each driver would be consulted and the dedicated Council medical form be utilised. We have requested a payment structure from Occupational Health in regard to this change of service but currently have not received figures to comment on.

Merits and Benefits to the Council

By adopting the proposals the Council would save an inordinate amount of officer time in administration and would not have to involve itself in any second party financial dealings. The amount saved administration time would out way the financial loss of the administration fee

Although the Shared Environmental Health and Licensing Service come secondary to any Member decision licensing function, the aims and objectives of the service are to reduce costs wherever possible.

In the immediate term there would be no cost savings directly to the trade however the reduced admin burden would benefit both the trade and the Council by allowing more time to deal with other taxi regulatory functions. It would also speed up the process of applying for a licence or renewal.

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

Consultation information from current drivers

Contact Yvonne Jones	Service Licensing Service
Telephone No 01635 519 519	Email Yvonne.Jones@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 6 November 2013	Version No. One

Change of Medical Provision Consultation

<u>Name / Operator</u>	<u>Badge Number</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Mandy Dorman	DD577	✓		More flexible times. Had to take time off work to go to Occ-Health. Own GP knows you better & has access to your records.
Mohammad Amin	DD432	✓		
Michael Richard Theobald	PHD290	✓		It will be much easier to arrange & carry it out with your own GP. You may get a friendly welcome for a change.
David Alexander Doe	SCD125	✓		
Ashraf Choudhry	DD719	✓		
Paul Kennedy	DD396	✓		Should be any GP employed by the NHS as not all GPs do this service.
Wilfred Hogg	DD565	✓		Sensible.
Mohammad Bashir	PHD494	✓		This is a very good move to change the medical with own GP as your own GP knows the full history of the patient.
John Robertson	PHD170	✓		
Talib Hussain	SCD107		✓	
Patrick Whelan	SCD130	✓		I think it's a good idea, it would save drivers and their companies time and money. Its nice to see forward thinking.
Arthur Small	SCD122	✓		
Barry Binder	DD437	✓		
Haki Sylaj	PHD175	✓		
Abdussalam Mamun	PHD464	✓		
George Edgecombe	SCD097	✓		
Waseem Rasib	DD772		✓	We're happy with our council system, many thanks.

<u>Name/ Operator</u>	<u>Badge Number</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Ian Fraser	PHD497	✓		
William McNaughton	DD646	✓		
Abid Mehmood	PHD059	✓		
Khawaja Nadeem Hassan	PHD326	✓		
Yvonne Tock	SCD135		✓	
Violet Alleyne	SCD058		✓	
Khalil Ahmed	DD715	✓		
Parvez Akhtar	DD499	✓		
Khalid Hashmi	DD713	✓		
Mohammed Nadeem	DD672	✓		
Ajjid Mahmood	DD593	✓		
Shabana Sheikh	SCD013	✓		
James Cooper	PHD445	✓		
Anthony John Fulbrook	SCD138	✓		
Mohammad Khan	DD774	✓		
Kamhal Anupchandra	DD605	✓		It's much convenient and much easier.
Kelvin Gough	SCD096	✓		Only because it's easy for me to park and my doctor knows me.
Mark Bullion	DD411	✓		Great idea! On about this for years! Keep up the good work!
Monzrul Chowdhury	PHD088	✓		
Gurcharn Mehta	SCD126		✓	
Toseef Mahmood	PHD472	✓		
Javed Iqbal	PHD072			Out of the Country
Gabriel Hirta	PHD333	✓		
Khalid Mahmood	PHD215		✓	
Syed Hamdani	DD669	✓		Different GP; change different prices for medical- it would be a good idea to drop the price/fee to £90 which medical occupational health are charging.

<u>Name / Operator</u>	<u>Badge Number</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Ricardo Herbradon	PHD187	✓		
Harpal Singh Vig	PHD490	✓		
Emad Rajabalipour	DD703	✓		
Mohammad Rajabalipour	DD588	✓		
Amjad Mahmood	DD695	✓		
Alan White	DD537	✓		What a good idea
Jeremy Edwards	PHD172		✓	Changing to a driver's own GP has potential for abuse. A GP can have a close relationship with some of his/her patients whereas the Occupational Health people do not and will make completely unbiased decisions
Martin Brailey	SCD134	✓		Depending on cost
Rashid Mehmood	PHD482	✓		
Mr A K Baksh	DD686	✓		
Mr M R Jabbar	PHD285	✓		I think this will make life easy for us
M A Sheikh	PHD335	✓		