



Sussex Police
Serving Sussex

www.sussex.police.uk

West Sussex Division

Taxi Licensing Team
Public Health & Regulation
Adur & Worthing Councils
Portland House
Worthing
BN11 1HS

27 November 2018

Dear Sirs

**Re: Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Handbook
Adur District & Worthing Borough Councils' Licensing Handbooks Consultation**

I write on behalf of Sussex Police to raise representation regarding the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing handbook. This is based on the promotion of the licensing objectives of the promotion of Public Safety, the Protection of children from harm and the Prevention of Crime & Disorder.

Sussex Police consider it important that members of the public; residents and visitors alike, are able to access safe and secure transport throughout this area while supporting a vibrant local economy. However, particularly during the hours of the night time economy, when taxis are likely to be the dominant mode of transport; it is imperative that appropriate measures are in place to ensure that these licensing objectives are promoted.

Sussex Police would, therefore, like to propose the following regarding both the Adur District Council and the Worthing Borough Council Taxi Handbooks.

Prevention of Crime & Disorder.

CCTV is considered essential as a pre-requisite for use in licensed vehicles. Experience has shown that the footage collected from CCTV cameras has on occasion provided valuable evidence when investigating reported incidents.

The availability of CCTV can safeguard drivers from spurious allegations.

Similarly the presence of CCTV can act as deterrent to any persons within the vehicle. This supports both the promotion of public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder. It can give reassurance to vulnerable passengers, as well as to the driver of the vehicle.

Should an incident be reported, the CCTV footage can assist both police and any other relevant authority, in their investigation. This relates not only to reported offences within the vehicle, but can assist in identifying or eliminating persons who have used the vehicle and are suspected of having committed an offence. This will deter persons from using licensed vehicles in relation to a criminal offence.

CCTV is also considered essential in assisting safeguarding vulnerable persons. This includes but is not limited to; children (including school run vehicles), persons with particular needs or persons made vulnerable through intoxication or similar. Again this affords protection for both the passenger and the driver in these circumstances.

It is not considered an onerous request that CCTV should be a standard requirement given the clearly demonstrable benefits to both members of the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire profession.

Protection of Children from Harm and Public Safety

It is recommended that all drivers of licensed vehicles undergo full annual training in relation to protection of vulnerable persons. This should include an awareness of how to recognise a vulnerable person and what to do in order to keep both the member of the public and the driver safe.

It is recommended that all drivers of licensed vehicles undergo full annual training in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE). This should include an awareness of how to recognise a vulnerable child and what to do if CSE is suspected.

In order to assist in the protection of vulnerable persons, children and indeed any person in the vehicle, it is considered essential that the windows are clear affording an unhindered view of the interior. This would prohibit the use of glass tinted to a level to prevent inspection and any other item/s which would cause the same problems to police officers or similar.

It is anticipated that any reputable operator would embrace these measures to advance the safety of their passengers and their drivers. However it is considered paramount that matters of such importance are actively promoted and that patrons of Adur District & Worthing Borough Councils' Hackney Carriage & Private Hire vehicles can be confident that the service they are using has been licensed to stringent standards.



Di Lewis

Inspector Sussex Police Licensing Team