

Email received 27/07/22 – 14:41

This is my response to the consultation process

Listed below are responses to individual Policy proposals. My overall honest opinion is that you will not have a sufficient number of Hackney or Private drivers within two years, by all accounts the Country is already short. I understand the Council making policies to ensure public safety, but by overkill, you are making the situation worse... What happens to the young girls who cannot get home on a weekend night out due to a shortage of drivers?? New applicants will not go simply not bother, a Driving test alone, Advance at that! Seriously, you cannot book a normal driving test at present let alone an Advanced test, and you're expecting new applicants and existing drivers to take one.

5.6.6 DBS... Saying will only be accepted through North Northants. Well, that's great, I couldn't apply through East Northants at the time, they asked us to go externally, so I did I went through Beds Boro as I was at the time helping with some school contract work. It's an enhanced check, through the same channels so why cannot I use this? It's already on the update system

[5.12.3.5](#) Driver tests/Knowledge. All of us registered currently with East Northants would have completed a Knowledge test that is compatible to the area we are operating from, which of course is East Northants, why on earth do I need to know about Kettering/Corby area, the same applies to a driver licensed in their area, why do they need to know about Rushden & Higham. We have technology nowadays, Sat Nav, google maps, and even maps on your phone, please move on with the times

[5.12.3.5](#) Advance driving test... I totally disagree with this proposal, this one proposal as already mentioned above will bring the trade to its knees. I have however no objection to drivers having lessons throughout their period of the license. (Maybe once a year, which could be then passed on to the Council) You could make it mandatory for new drivers to have at least one observatory lesson before issuing a license??

This should never be a test, but if the assessor thinks the driver's driving is really bad then he should be reported to the Council with immediate effect. Extra lessons should then be taken straight away until the said assessor is confident that the driver is now capable. If after three more lessons he still thinks the driver's driving is so bad, then I am afraid it's time to revoke his license or not issue one!!! But under no way should this be a test you have to pass. I think that's so wrong

[6.1.1.1](#) Vehicle Age... I run a Mercedes as I have exempt plates and carry out Executive work. I would have normally changed my car, as I do on average every two years. Due to the Pandemic, I will run the car for another year due to the mileage not being as high as it would have been and also the **FACT** that used car prices are so high at present. I am currently in discussion with my garage regarding spending £3,500 on a timing chain and new turbo to give me the best chance of the car will give me a good full year. Next year going by your suggested policy I will have to buy a car not older than 2019, at present that would not be sustainable at current prices on the forecourts. The fares we charge would have to go up around 30% to cover the extra cost. I don't think you have thought this one through properly, yet again you haven't allowed for the last two years of the Pandemic. I would however support a policy of **FIVE** years, with a review in another 2/3 years of reverting back to fours if the economic environment supports it?

6.2.16 Electric Vehicles... I am dead against this proposal, it's a nonsense, far too early to implement a badly thought out policy The Government law is 2030 for **NO NEW COMBUSTION ENGINES**. We are not a metropolitan area, our area is mainly rural. Again the Electric vehicle in my line of work will be out of my reach financially. Most local drivers will also struggle with the four-year rule buying an Electric car. The Electric car is still in it's infancy, we need better range, and of course, so they are more affordable, at least change this rule until 2030 with a possibility of a review then?

8.20 Exemption Plates... Business proposal?? I run on exempt plates have just submitted my renewal and was asked to supply some kind of evidence. So I did I listed most of the companies I carry out work for. Surely there is no need to go further than this? I can't ask my clients for some sort of proof, that would be so unprofesional, who the hell thought this one up? I except for car needs to be "Immaculate" too, but you have to have a little tolerance, for god's sake, they are working cars, you will get the odd stone chip, (Gritter lorries!) or dare I say a little scratch. You can't afford to have the car resprayed every two or three months. I have just had my Alloy wheels renewed, yes they did need doing and at great expense, I took the decision knowing I was keeping the car

6.10.2 Plates... I travel to Heathrow and all the major airports every day, I think I have only ever seen plates displayed on the front of a licensed vehicle only once. Now bearing in mind this doesn't actually affect me? Why? Why the need to put plates on the front of the vehicle. A decent plate on the back of the vehicle is more than enough to notify the public it is a licensed vehicle

That's it, I could have written more, but I thought it was July 31st it ended, my mistake so I have listed what I think is important, not only for myself but as a trade moving forward. I haven't even mentioned the safeguard and diversity training also part of your license renewal or application. surely these could be rolled into half a day and attended at the same time? More bureaucracy that is overload, I am not saying we shouldn't be aware and yes maybe attend a seminar, but tests, really?

As already stated and I keep every email I send, yes everyone. If you go ahead and don't listen, mark my words there will be a major shortage of drivers within two years, if not before. I know many of the independent drivers running around Rushden who will not renew. They are so popular because the main companies are so bad. So please at least take some of my points on board after all I have been in the business since January 1991

Regards

██████████

East Northants ██████████