South Somerset District Council - Taxi Licensing Policy



1. Do you agree with this proposal Response Response Percent Count Yes 58.1% 25 No 44.2% 19 Comments 21 43 answered question skipped question 4

2. Do you agree that these checks should be carried out every 3 years

Response Count	Response Percent	
32	76.2%	Yes
10	23.8%	No
11	Comments	
42	answered question	

42	answered question	
5	skipped question	

3. Are you an existing driver

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	72.5%	29
No	27.5%	11
	answered question	40
	skipped question	7

4. Are you happy for SSDC to access your DBS check online more frequently where you have subscribed to the DBS Update Service, and you have given us a signed mandate to do so

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	96.8%	30
No	3.2%	1
	Comments	4

31	answered question	
16	skipped question	

5. Do you agree with this proposal

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.7%	38
No	7.3%	3

41	answered question	
6	skipped question	

Comments

3

6. Do you agree with this proposal

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	71.8%	28
No	28.2%	11
	answered question	39
	skipped question	8

7. Do you agree that the following question categories should be included in the knowledge test

	Yes	No	Rating Count
Highway Code	86.5% (32)	13.5% (5)	37
Local Topography	72.2% (26)	27.8% (10)	36
Taxi Law	83.8% (31)	16.2% (6)	37
Drivers Etiquette	89.2% (33)	10.8% (4)	37
English Comprehension	89.2% (33)	10.8% (4)	37
Basic Numeracy	89.2% (33)	10.8% (4)	37
		Comments	15

answered question	37
skipped question	10

8. Are there any other question categories that should be included in the knowledge test, if so what should they be

Response Count

8

answered question	8
skipped question	39

9. Do you agree that SSDC should request a copy of drivers' Public Liability insurance as part of the application process

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	81.6%	31
No	18.4%	7

Comments

7

38	answered question	
9	skipped guestion	

10. Do you agree with this approach

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	64.9%	24
No	35.1%	13

Comments

11

answered question	37
skipped question	10

11. Do you agree that all hackney carriages should be wheelchair accessible

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	15.8%	6
No	84.2%	32
	answered question	38
	skipped question	9

12. If you don't agree that all hackney carriages should be wheelchair accessible, what percentage do you think should be

	Response Percent	Response Count
75%	3.3%	1
50%	33.3%	10
25%	33.3%	10
10%	43.3%	13
	Comments	20
		20

answered question	30
skipped question	17

13. Do you agree that only new vehicles should be licensed as hackney carriages

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	18.4%	7
No	81.6%	31
	Comments	20
	answered question	38
	skipped question	9

14. Do you agree with this p	proposal	
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	57.9%	22
No	42.1%	16
	Comments	1
	answered question	3
	skipped question	
15. Do you agree with this p	proposal	
	Response Percent	Respons Count
Yes	47.4%	1
No	52.6%	2
	Comment	1
	answered question	3
	skipped question	
16. Do you support this pro	posal	
	Response Percent	Respons Count
Yes	83.3%	3
No	16.7%	
	Comment	1
	answered question	3

17. Do you agree that private hire operators should be subject to a criminal records check.

	Respons Percen	se Response t Count
Yes	94.7	% 36
No	5.3	% 2
	Comme	nt 5

38	answered question	
9	skipped question	

18. Do you agree with the policy on relevance of convictions

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	94.6%	35
No	5.4%	2

answer	ed question 37

Comment

Comment

skipped question

3

10

5

19. Do you agree that it is necessary to impose conditions on a licence in order to ensure that minimum standards are met

Yes 86.1% 31 No 13.9% 5		Response Percent	Response Count
No 13.9% 5	Yes	86.1%	31
	No	13.9%	5

answered question 36
skipped question 11

	andard pool of conditions is comprehensive enough	20. Do you think that the sta
Respons Count	Response Percent	
. 3	94.4%	Yes
	5.6%	No
	Comment	
3	answered question	
1	skipped question	
please	ditions that you feel should be added to the list, if so p comments box below	21. Are there any other con outline what they are in the
Respons Count	Response Percent	
	9.1%	Yes

Count	Percent	
3	9.1%	Yes
30	90.9%	No
4	Other (please specify)	
33	answered question	
14	skipped question	

22. Do you agree with this a	approach	
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	77.8%	28
No	22.2%	8
	Comment	10
	answered question	36
	skipped question	11

23. Are there any other issues that you feel should be included within the penalty points scheme

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	28.6%	10
No	71.4%	25
	Comment	9
	answered question	35
	skipped question	12

24. Do you feel that this is adequate

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	39.4%	13
No	60.6%	20
	answered question	33
	skipped question	14

25. If it were possible to increase the amount of enforcement officer time available would you support this

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	88.2%	30
No	14.7%	5
	answered question	34
	skipped question	13

26. If the additional enforcement officer time came at an increased vehicle licence cost, how much extra would you consider reasonable in order to pay for this

	Response Percent	Response Count
£10	45.8%	11
£20	29.2%	7
£30	16.7%	4
£40	0.0%	0
£50	4.2%	1
more than £50	4.2%	1
	Comment	13
	answered question	24
	skipped question	23

27. At what times do you feel that additional enforcement is required.							
	08.00hrs to 12.00hrs	12.00hrs to 16.00hrs	16.00hrs to 20.00hrs	20.00hrs to 24.00hrs	24.00hrs to 04.00hrs	04.00hrs to 08.00hrs	Rating Count
Monday	63.6% (7)	54.5% (6)	63.6% (7)	27.3% (3)	9.1% (1)	9.1% (1)	11
Tuesday	60.0% (6)	60.0% (6)	60.0% (6)	30.0% (3)	20.0% (2)	10.0% (1)	10
Wednesday	60.0%	60.0% (6)	70.0% (7)	30.0%	10.0% (1)	10.0% (1)	10
Thursday	50.0% (5)	40.0% (4)	60.0% (6)	50.0% (5)	30.0%	10.0% (1)	10
Friday	25.0% (5)	20.0%	40.0% (8)	70.0% (14)	95.0% (19)	15.0% (3)	20
Saturday	14.3% (3)	14.3% (3)	33.3% (7)	76.2% (16)	95.2% (20)	14.3% (3)	21
Sunday	12.5% (1)	62.5% (5)	62.5% (5)	50.0% (4)	37.5% (3)	12.5% (1)	8
						Comment	12
					answered	d question	21
					skipped	d question	26
28. What is your gender?							
					ı	Response Percent	Response Count
Female						12.5%	4
Male						81.3%	26
Prefer not to say						6.3%	2
					answered	question	32
					skipped	question	15

29. Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.3%	28
No	0.0%	0
Prefer not to say	9.7%	3
	answered question	31
	skipped question	16

30. How old are you

	Response Percent	Response Count
0 to 17	0.0%	0
18 to 24	0.0%	0
25 to 34	15.6%	5
35 to 49	34.4%	11
50 to 64	37.5%	12
65 to 74	9.4%	3
75+	0.0%	0
Prefer not to say	3.1%	1
	answered question	32
	skipped question	15

31. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	6.5%	2
No	83.9%	26
Prefer not to say	9.7%	3
	answered question	31
	skipped question	16

32. what is your disability

	Response Percent	Response Count
Mental Health	0.0%	0
Hearing Impairment	0.0%	0
Sight Impairment	0.0%	0
Physical Disability	66.7%	2
Learning Disability	0.0%	0
Other Disability (please tell us what this is in the comment box below)	33.3%	1

Comment

1

answered question	3
skipped question	44

33. What is your religion or belief

Response Count	Response Percent	
10	31.3%	None
15	46.9%	Christian
0	0.0%	Hindu
0	0.0%	Jewish
1	3.1%	Muslim
0	0.0%	Sikh
0	0.0%	Buddhist
6	18.8%	Prefer not to say
0	Other (please specify)	
32	answered question	
15	skipped question	

34. Do you provide care for anyone (e.g a parent, child or other relative, friend who has any form of disability, long term or terminal illness

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	19.4%	6
No (please skip question 35)	80.6%	25
	answered question	31
	skipped question	16

35. What is their disability

	Response Percent	Response Count
Mental Health	0.0%	0
Hearing Impairment	0.0%	0
Sight Impairment	0.0%	0
Physical Disability	80.0%	4
Learning Disability	0.0%	0
Other	20.0%	1
	Other (please specify)	1

answered question	5
skipped question	42

36. How would you describe your ethnic background or identity?

	Response Percent	Response Count
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish	85.7%	24
Irish	0.0%	0
White Central & Eastern Europe	7.1%	2
European other	0.0%	0
Gypsy/Roma/Irish Traveller	3.6%	1
Any other white background (please specify)	0.0%	0
Caribbean	0.0%	0
African	0.0%	0
Any other black background (please specify)	0.0%	0
Dual or multiple heritage	3.6%	, 1
Any other mixed background (please specify)	0.0%	0
Bangladeshi	0.0%	0
Indian	0.0%	0
Pakistani	0.0%	0
Any other Asian background (please specify)	0.0%	0
	Other (please specify	0
	answered question	28
	skipped question	19

Page 2,	Q1. Do you agree with this proposal	
1	I am unable to find para 5.8 in the (hard) draft policy document. New driver badges should be issued for an initial period of one year and only renewed for a further three years upon satisfactory conduct & knowledge etc within this 'probation' period.	Dec 31, 2013 10:46 PM
2	1. The initial cost implication for potential (employed) new drivers would be higher, with the current cost and time already taken to obtain a DSA test and DBS, makes the trade already unattractive to new employees. 2. Ongoing the one off cost every three years would be off putting maybe a monthly or annual fee for renewal would help. 3. If drivers leave the industry part way through their licence tenure would the pro-rata difference be refunded.	Dec 30, 2013 7:21 PM
3	For some people taxi driving might be a temporary income solution. Or some could find out they are not meant to do it after a few months of experience. So having the option for shorter term license would be nice if you ask me.	Dec 30, 2013 12:28 PM
4	What happens to the Over 65's who have to have a medical every year, they are not going to buy a 3 year licence?	Dec 18, 2013 9:56 AM
5	Would like the option of 1 year or two, the fees for two or three years would have to be considered, I couldn't afford to pay for a three year licence.	Nov 25, 2013 12:00 PM
6	But i think it should be a lower fee.	Nov 18, 2013 3:40 PM
7	I don't really see what is the point of this. If anyone wants they can renew their badge every 3 years anyway.	Nov 13, 2013 5:22 PM
8	I prefer the choice of 1 2 or 3 years	Nov 13, 2013 10:01 AM
9	great idea	Nov 9, 2013 3:32 PM
10	As long as can be revoked if found unsuitable within the period up to the renewal date	Nov 7, 2013 3:18 PM
11	Good idea, also reduces burden on your staff.	Nov 6, 2013 10:05 PM
12	Stating the obvious really!	Nov 6, 2013 7:22 PM
13	But if you intend to retire or end your career as a taxi driver in the period of that 3 years, will a rebate be issued for the full 12 month period or periods not used ?	Nov 6, 2013 6:27 PM
14	Already renew my badge for 3 years	Nov 6, 2013 6:26 PM
15	I prefer to renew annually as due to my age I am not sure if I will be continuing for 3 years	Nov 6, 2013 3:50 PM
16	MORE RED TAPE AND RULES AND COST,S TO OPERATOR .	Nov 6, 2013 3:29 PM
17	i belive it should be kept as per the current system to ensur the safety of the public	Nov 6, 2013 1:44 PM
18	cost	Nov 6, 2013 12:16 PM
19	The current system of Annual renewal is adequate given the consistent level of offending amongst licenced drivers. To increase the time would be detrimental.	Nov 6, 2013 12:18 AM

Page 2, Q1. Do you agree with this proposal			
20	I think that it is eaiser to keep the drivers in check with a one year badge. I would there is a review at the end of each period, where the drivers complaints are looked at to see if they are worthy of a Hackney Licence.	Nov 5, 2013 8:06 AM	
21	I agree with this in principle however, there must still be a clearly defined process for the withdrawl of badges through voluntary surrender and/or through enforcement on the grounds of a failure to comply with regulations or consistent poor standards of practice.	Nov 4, 2013 10:00 PM	

Page 3	, Q2. Do you agree that these checks should be carried out every 3 years	
1	An annual check would be more useful.	Dec 31, 2013 10:49 PM
2	This is the current trade standard and works well with the new ongoing online portaling system.	Dec 30, 2013 7:22 PM
3	3 YEARS IS A LONG TIME SPAN WHICH MAY NOT INCORPORATE ANY CRIMINAL ACTIVITY WHICH MAY OCCUR DURING THIS TIME ESPECIALLY AS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO CARRY UNACCOMPANIED MINORS. I WOULD SUGGEST 18 MONTHS AS A MAX.	Nov 27, 2013 10:14 PM
4	But i do believe that non UK citizens/drivers, should be perhaps checked more frequently. I hope this comment is appreciated, i must point out this is not meant at all in any racist way.	Nov 18, 2013 3:44 PM
5	Should be reduced to every years	Nov 12, 2013 4:17 PM
6	no they should be checked every 12 months	Nov 6, 2013 6:29 PM
7	With the introduction of the new DBS system, would it not make sense to utilise this service? As long as each driver pays the annual subscription to keep the data base live this system will inevitably highlight any offences directly to SSDC.	Nov 6, 2013 1:55 PM
8	they should be carried out every 2 years	Nov 6, 2013 1:45 PM
9	Per my response to question 1. Additionally, a driver could gain a significant conviction a short while after gaining their licence, and then not be checked for a considerable length of time under the 3 year proposal.	Nov 6, 2013 12:19 AM
10	I think the checks should be carried out annually with the badge review. Three years is a long time frame if you have committed a crime.	Nov 5, 2013 8:07 AM
11	Criminal Records should be checked annually. The protection of vulnerable members of society from exploitation is of paramount importance and the local authority would make a significant contribution to this by carrying out annual checks.	Nov 4, 2013 10:03 PM

Page 4, Q4. Are you happy for SSDC to access your DBS check online more frequently where you have subscribed to the DBS Update Service, and you have given us a signed mandate to do so		
1	Not bothered either way online subscribing is a good system	Dec 30, 2013 7:23 PM
2	Although not yet subscribe, will be at next application in 2014.	Nov 6, 2013 10:06 PM
3	No problems as I have nothing to hide!	Nov 6, 2013 7:23 PM
4	YES IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR .	Nov 6, 2013 3:30 PM

Page 5, Q5. Do you agree with this proposal		
1	MORE RED TAPE AND COST TO OPERATER AND DRIVERS .	Nov 6, 2013 3:31 PM
2	Definitely. This will promote safer drivers and improved accuracy of licencing.	Nov 6, 2013 12:21 AM
3	I'm surprised that this is not already the case. I have personal experience of a situation where a driver had two driving licences and produced the 'clean' licence to SSDC whilst retaining the other with a large number of endorsements on it. This is clearly an abuse of position which could be avoided through annual checking of driver records with the DVLA.	Nov 4, 2013 10:06 PM

Page 6,	Q7. Do you agree that the following question categories should be included in	n the knowledge test
1	Too many drivers have no proper knowledge of our local area (as evidenced by comments from my passengers) and there is a complete ignorance amongst most drivers of the laws and regulations governing their trade and operations.	Dec 31, 2013 11:15 PM
2	It is already very difficult to attract new drivers and is very difficult to train to local topography for a rural area. Making it very difficult for smaller companies to make a reasonable profit	Dec 30, 2013 7:28 PM
3	Im presuming this is for new applications and think local knowledge comes with experience of driving in your area.i think operators should know the taxi laws and drivers understand the basics.	Dec 26, 2013 5:29 PM
4	WE SEE NO NEED UNLESS THE APPLICANT HAS LIVED IN THE AREA FOR LESS THAN TEN YEARS.	Dec 18, 2013 10:04 AM
5	It is important for drivers to have a good understanding of customers different needs like if they are disabled or from a different country	Nov 11, 2013 5:56 PM
6	Customer safety. The customers is the most important person in the car (or should be) if you stop to drop off a customer you should always, try to stop with the customers door on to the pavement side, do not let the customer get out on the traffic side. If circumstance forces this action the driver should get out.before the customer with the intention of protecting the customer from any traffic hazards.	Nov 10, 2013 8:49 AM
7	topography to difficult b to wide an area to cover .	Nov 9, 2013 3:35 PM
8	A speed awareness course would not go amiss from some of the 'professional' driving I have seen from some taxi drivers.	Nov 7, 2013 3:21 PM
9	Local topography would only be needed by taxi drivers not private hire drivers, as private hire drivers should familiarise themselves before starting required passenger transportation.	Nov 6, 2013 10:11 PN
10	I am a member of Mensa and do not need unqualified people testing me. The driving test has been passed to gain the licence and the local area is covered by my Sat Nav.	Nov 6, 2013 7:26 PN
11	also health and safety and customer care	Nov 6, 2013 6:35 PM
12	IT IS JUST ANOTHER NAIL IN THE COFFIN , THEIR IS NO WORK OUT THERE SO ITS HARD TO MAKE A LIVING BUT SSDC JUST WANTS MORE MONEY .	Nov 6, 2013 3:33 PN
13	I think it should be four new drivers not four the ones how have badges now	Nov 6, 2013 2:34 PM
14	A long time coming.	Nov 6, 2013 12:22 AM
15	All the above are what should be expected of a professional driver and ensure that high standards are set and met.	Nov 4, 2013 10:07 PM

	Page 6, Q8. Are there any other question categories that should be included in the knowledge test, if so what should they be		
1	Plenty !!. Ask any driver, for example, what the law is regarding the carriage and 'belting up' of infants and children. Most do not know and believe that they can carry in excess of their 'license to carry' if the extra passengers are 'babes in arms'.	Dec 31, 2013 11:15 PM	
2	Dont think so	Dec 26, 2013 5:29 PM	
3	NO	Dec 18, 2013 10:04 AM	
4	Treat other taxi drivers with respect	Nov 28, 2013 12:48 PM	
5	disability training and understanding	Nov 11, 2013 5:56 PM	
6	Child booster seat legislation	Nov 7, 2013 3:21 PM	
7	Health and Safety Customer Care	Nov 6, 2013 6:35 PM	
8	Vehicle safety, roadworthiness and cleanliness.	Nov 6, 2013 12:22 AM	

Page 7, Q9. Do you agree that SSDC should request a copy of drivers' Public Liability insurance as part of the application process		
1	IN OUR CASE IT WOULD BE THE COMPANY LIABILITY INSURANCE.	Dec 18, 2013 10:06 AM
2	As a driver, I do not own the cars or mini bus I drive at any given time. Any public liability is covered under the firms name and is the responsibility of the owner to organise. You would have to request those details with them.	Nov 25, 2013 12:16 PM
3	I thought that this was Compulsary anyway,as it is in many cases built in with the insurance.	Nov 18, 2013 3:49 PM
4	As long as this isnt going to cost me more money	Nov 13, 2013 10:03 AM
5	And random checks made to ensure not cancelled once produced	Nov 7, 2013 3:22 PM
6	If not working for a company which should have them insured.	Nov 6, 2013 10:11 PM
7	Not every driver would have this surely? Only company owners. I have it but any person who applies for a licence and then drives for me would then have to obtain a copy from me to send in. Do not think this is needed.	Nov 6, 2013 6:31 PM

Page 8,	Q10. Do you agree with this approach	
1	The running of individual businesses, the costs and the business approach (action plans), should be left to the business owners so long as national legalisation (law) is not broken. Otherwise the ability to react to cover the ever changing scope and business environment and protecting ones business and lively hood would be put at jeopardy and in turn put jobs and employees lively hoods at risk, and could result in family's being put under extra unnecessary financial hardship and or worse especially in the current environment. For example if one was to do a council contract and then lost the contract the could then ply hire and reward whilst without contract, if someone had a mix of private hire trade and saw a down turn in trade, they would be able to then ply in times of lower trade. However without the ability to be flexible, change and adapt to the current trade environment this would cause major problems.	Dec 30, 2013 7:44 PM
2	As long as vehicle is licensed I dont see what difference it makes to where you work , its a service that operator provides	Dec 26, 2013 5:42 PM
3	THERE IS VERY LITTLE HOPE OF KNOWING WHAT A VEHICLE IS GOING TO DO BEFORE IT IS LICENCED.	Dec 18, 2013 10:10 AM
4	neither agree or disagree	Nov 25, 2013 12:19 PM
5	I should be free to ply for hire in my district and have the freedom of choice to take bookings from outside my area after all it is the customers choice which taxi service they choose to use	Nov 13, 2013 10:05 AM
6	Not supporting local businesses and communities	Nov 7, 2013 3:23 PM
7	Licence is incorrectly spelt so how can we trust you to question us?	Nov 6, 2013 7:27 PM
8	In some cases a taxi owner may wish to licence his cab to work in a neighbouring town that is in a different county because he may want to work in his local community during the day but at night there may be a lack of services in the neighbouring town at night that he could service	Nov 6, 2013 6:47 PM
9	Do not see it makes a lot of difference. I cannot believe there are people who apply for a Hackney licence but only operate the vehicle as a private hire vehicle for further a field??	Nov 6, 2013 6:34 PM
10	MORE RULES !!!!	Nov 6, 2013 3:34 PM
		Nov. C. 2012 12:20 DM
11	basis of free trade	Nov 6, 2013 12:20 PM

Page 9, Q12. If you don't agree that all hackney carriages should be wheelchair accessible, what percentage do you think should be		
1	The provision of WAV's should be subject to the economies of supply and demand. Larger fleet operators should be required to have at least one WAV available at any given time but I question how, in Yeovil, any WAV could be useful as a HC given the fundamental flaws of access to the Silver St rank.	Dec 31, 2013 11:33 PM
2	There is not the requirement or financial reward for a higher number of wheelchair access, this would generate a surplus to requirement, and the potential revenue is by far outweighed by the cost and would result in smaller business going out of business and putting put more jobs at risk in large ones. The way forward would be for local or central government to invest in local companies by way of grants or incentives for the change of vehicle for the disabled people, rather than putting the burden onto the local businesses in a trade sector already severely struggling with very limited profits. Another way would be for all larger business to have one in five hackney carriages as a wheelchair access, this would mean areas large businesses would be able to afford it, as the limited revenue would not be surplus to requirement as numbers would be limited and thus having a unique sale point. And the smaller businesses and one man bands could afford to carry on and mix ply and private hire, this would look after and protect both larger and smaller business and protect council taxi revenue and jobs and as importantly look after the disabled customers without damaging businesses.	Dec 30, 2013 8:17 PM
3	Your authority should have all the statistics on the amount of registered wheelchair users. That's why You should pick the figure of the accessible vehicles needed, based on the demand.	Dec 30, 2013 3:16 PM
4	I dont believe it is practical for all vehicles to be wheelchair accessible, especially where the company only has a few vehicles, this would involve small companies having to buy specialist vehicles that they wont be able to afford and may mean the company would have to stop trading and making the staff unemployed. If it is a large company then it is more acceptable for them to have a percentage of such vehicles.	Dec 26, 2013 7:19 PM
5	THE LIKELY HOOD OF DISABLED PEOPLE STANDING ON A TAXI RANK IS VERY SMALL, THEY WOULD NORMALLY PRE BOOK A TAXI FOR OUTWARD AND RETURN JOURNIES	Dec 18, 2013 10:13 AM
6	Most accessible vehicles are not suitable for long distance work which makes up a large percentage of work. Most customers would not want to book this type of vehicle	Nov 28, 2013 12:55 PM
7	1 man band owner driver would not be able to absorb the cost of this regulation and should be a requirement for larger organisations with more than 5 vehicles, for example.	Nov 27, 2013 10:23 PM
8	cannot agree on a percentage with out knowing how many people in local area require wheelchair.	Nov 25, 2013 12:21 PM
9	Not all Drivers can afford to have a vehicle that is Wheelchair accessible, and on most occasions, we would find that if a wheelchair accessible vehicle is required, then, on most occasions the customer would telephone the appropriate taxi offices I do not believe that independent drivers, need to be made to have such vehicles, at the moment.	Nov 18, 2013 3:56 PM
10	because I am a one car, owner operation having to have a wheelchair accessible vehicle would a .Be detrimental to longer journeys, ie Heathrow/Gatwick airports or North of England etc with one customer who	Nov 14, 2013 11:16 AM

Page 9, Q12. If you don't agree that all hackney carriages should be wheelchair accessible, what percentage do you think should be

	requires comfort and efficiency of transport b. Be costly for 1, the purchase of such a vehicle and 2. the running costs are higher than most ordinary cars c. I have in ten years working from main line station at Castle Cary only been asked once to transport a mobility scooter which could not even access the transit style vehicle the severely paralised customer with him in it. He could not bend his head forward. We therefore got his scooter into the transit and we slid him on a board into my 4 seater estate car. He was happy and got there and there was no need to panic, infact he was the man who managed the disabled side of things for the London underground. So it proves it can be done. This man could only move his head from side to side and nothing else. Apart from this occasion people have always ordered a disabled access vehicle in advance, which of course any sensible person would do d. This ruling would mean that any customer wanting longer journeys would always book the comfortable option which would be a private hire vehicle therefore denying hackney vehicles this part of the trade e If hackney vehicles all have to be disabled access why shouldn't private hire also have to be?	
11	This law should only apply to taxi companies that have at least 10 vehicles in their fleet. There is no need for EVERY single taxi to be wheelchair accessible.	Nov 13, 2013 5:26 PM
12	the requirement for wheel chair access is a grey area as most customers i deal with who use wheel chairs find my car perfectly good for them and if someone was to call me and they are wheelchair bound then i would pass them onto a company that could provide that service	Nov 13, 2013 10:09 AM
13	all vehicles should be accessible this not only helps disabled people but older people or people with kids	Nov 11, 2013 5:58 PM
14	I have marked the answer to this question at 50% I think that the amount of disabled vehicles required by the public on a genuine need basis is far lower than 50% may be 15% but If I am honist the correct persentage needs to be accessed by a survey of how many people use disabled vehicles or request the use on a daily basis. If there is high demand we would all benefit from buying disabled vehicles if the demand is not there taxi drivers will loose out financially in the long run especially the one man band. Vehicles built to take disabled people feel / look and are less comfortable. As a none disabled person I would prefer to travel in a none disabled vehicle I would like the choice.	Nov 10, 2013 3:18 PM
15	to expensive to buy does not suit all customers,{oap,s}	Nov 9, 2013 3:39 PM
16	There is obviously a cost implication and there are a variety of wheelchairs and mobility issues. Conversions such as those done by Brotherwood and other specialists companies should not be compulsary as many will go out of business. For individuals (self-employed) 'reasonable' boot space should allow active wheelchair users, car derived vans within a larger company could be adapted or suitable for about 10% of the vehicles.	Nov 7, 2013 3:27 PM
17	In answer to Q11. Not all disabled persons are in wheelchairs, they may have special requirements that do not involve wheelchairs. I think that 50% would be adequate. Making all vehicles wheelchair friendly could cut down on fare paying clientel.	Nov 6, 2013 10:19 PM
18	Cabs fitted to carry wheelchairs are specially produced, normal cabs do not need this facility as the cost is prohibitive.	Nov 6, 2013 7:29 PM

Page 9, Q12. If you don't agree that all hackney carriages should be wheelchair accessible, what percentage do you think should be		
19	As someone who runs 2 vehicles, both under Hackney licence, I do not feel I need to provide a Wheelchair friendly vehicle. This will alienate the part of my business which I have taken years to build up where I am taking clients on long distance trips. I would no longer be able to convey 6 passengers, in comfort or safety. Has this been considered at all? I feel not!	Nov 6, 2013 6:37 PM
20	Our Taxi Company is based in Chard and it is extremely rare to be asked for a wheelchair accessible Taxi. In the unlikely event of being asked the contact number for a local Taxi Company that does have a vehicle with this facility is given to the enquirer	Nov 6, 2013 4:01 PM

Page 10, Q13. Do you agree that only new vehicles should be licensed as hackney carriages		
1	A ridiculous proposalunless the Council is to pay for such new vehicles!!	Dec 31, 2013 11:42 PM
2	The cost would put a large number of businesses out of business, reduce council revenue from vehicle and driver licences. Putting a lot of drivers out of work for an unnecessary requirement. The current standard is good enough and works (if it's not broke why fix it). As long as vehicles are legal and up to VOSA standard and up to the job this is an unnecessary requirement. A way forward if there is a concern would be for all hackneys to have have a MOT and council test 6 months apart thus being tested twice a year. The council test should allow failures without extra pain and cost and time to put right along the same lines as MOTs ie 10 days, however if the vehicle is deemed dangerous the plate should be removed until the test is passed, for minor faults a time scale for retest before plate is removed.	Dec 30, 2013 8:31 PM
3	This is impracticable for smaller companies that may not be able to afford to do this, as long as a vehicle is in good condition and has passed its SSDC inspection & MOT then it should be acceptable for it to be used as a Taxi, obviously if it doesnt reach the standard for the SSDC test then it would not be granted a License.	Dec 26, 2013 7:25 PM
4	As long as the vehicle is of suitable standard and lufton pass the vehicle then any vehicle within reason should be considered	Dec 26, 2013 5:53 PM
5	OLDER VEHICLES TEND TO BE FAR MORE RELIABLE THAN BRAND NEW VEHICLES.	Dec 18, 2013 10:17 AM
6	Age limit should not exceed 3 years for the car for it's 1st Hackney License. Limited mileage could apply.	Nov 27, 2013 10:25 PM
7	I do not agree with this part of the policy, i do believe that as long as the vehicle passes the Stringent test, that the ssdc provide at the moment, there should not be any major problems etc. I would also like to point out, that on behalf of the Independent Drivers, you would probably find, that we are unable to purchase Brand new vehicles. (another suggestion perhaps, could be that all Hackney carriege vehicles, to be Black cabs, ie the london cab. on saying this they also would not need to be brand new. again as long as they pass a stringent test. Another point would be, that also this would cover the availabilty of wheelchair accessible vehicles, which would then be a uniformed vehicle, that the public would be able to flag down, with confidence.	Nov 18, 2013 4:14 PM
8	Why should I have to buy a brand new vehicle when I can get a low mileage 2nd hand one for thousands of pounds less money and it is still under warranty from the manufacturer. Again it will be one rule for Hackney vehicles and another for Private Hire	Nov 14, 2013 11:19 AM
9	I think a 5year limit on first time plates would be more reasonable	Nov 13, 2013 10:10 AM
10	I run a 24 hour 7 day a week taxi service trying to give the customers and the public a service that is above and beyond what they deserve. We take all types of people home, the drunks the sick the vulnerable we do not refuse any person if we only had new vehicles we would have to restrict our services as a new vehicle would be too good for this type of work.	Nov 10, 2013 3:35 PM
11	Up to 3 years old sholud be exceptable	Nov 7, 2013 3:31 PM
12	But perhaps an age limit of 10 years maybe. Modern cars have smaller boot space generally and may exclude access to active wheelchair users	Nov 7, 2013 3:28 PM

Page 10, Q13. Do you agree that only new vehicles should be licensed as hackney carriages		
13	Stupid rule, cost prohibitive again.	Nov 6, 2013 7:30 PM
14	If this is introduced across the country there should be a vat reduction on cars that are purchased solely for the use as a taxi and painted or logo'd accordantly	Nov 6, 2013 6:54 PM
15	Having changed both my vehicles over the past year, both were 'nearly new' Would this count? I would not be able to operate having to purchase 2 brand new vehicles. Again what has been considered??	Nov 6, 2013 6:39 PM
16	Very few local Taxi Drivers/Companies will be in a position to purchase brand new vehicles therefore having to purchase second hand Taxi's and not have the choice of any second hand vehicle will limit the choice of vehicle far too much. The possibility of getting a second hand low mileage vehicle will be very slim indeed	Nov 6, 2013 4:12 PM
17	No "new" vehicles to be registered if they are more than 5 years old.	Nov 6, 2013 4:00 PM
18	THEIR WONT BE ANY TAXI,S IN YEOVIL IN YEOVIL AT THIS RATE !!!	Nov 6, 2013 3:35 PM
19	Its a joke as customers dont care about the car as they let there kids walk on the seats and eat in the car even when u ask them not to there is nice cars on the rank and they are not new so why make us all pay four new cars we pay out a lot as it is	Nov 6, 2013 2:39 PM
20	the cost of a new vehicle	Nov 6, 2013 12:21 PM

Page 11	, Q14. Do you agree with this proposal	
1	Don't know what the emission standard is but if it's a European or national standard then we should comply.	Dec 30, 2013 8:31 PM
2	Not if this means that regular vehicles cannot be used as a taxi, I do not think that having to use a specialist vehicle is a practical idea in Rural area's.	Dec 26, 2013 7:29 PM
3	MOT TESTS FOR SMOKE ARE BEING REDUCED, NOT INCREASED.	Dec 18, 2013 10:21 AM
4	don't they all ready.	Nov 25, 2013 12:22 PM
5	All vehicles sold in the EU must comply with defined emission standards by default	Nov 19, 2013 1:11 PM
6	Cars are covered by legislation at the moment so why would we need the EU interfering?	Nov 6, 2013 7:30 PM
7	As long as help is given to comply to this standard and its the same rule for every taxi company and sole trader	Nov 6, 2013 6:57 PM
8	Have no problem with this as I run newer vehicles only! Perhaps this will get rid of some of the poorly kept vehicles by others??	Nov 6, 2013 6:40 PM
9	As older vehicles are pensioned off and more up to date vehicles take their place This will automatically emerge	Nov 6, 2013 4:18 PM
10	MORE COST,S SSDC ARE DRIVING MORE COMPANY,S OUT BY THESE STUPID RULES .	Nov 6, 2013 3:36 PM
11	cost	Nov 6, 2013 12:22 PM

Page 12, Q15. Do you agree with this proposal			
1	However, as previously commented on new vehicles - all hackneys should have have a MOT and council test 6 months apart thus being tested twice a year. The council test should allow failures without extra pain and cost and time to put right along the same lines as MOTs ie 10 days, however if the vehicle is deemed dangerous the plate should be removed until the test is passed, for minor faults a time scale for retest before plate is removed. This would be a standard for vehicles up to 50000 miles a year ie a test every 25000, furthermore every 25000 an extra mot would be good practice every 50000 a council test. Meaning every vehicle is with a minimum of 2 tests a year up to 50000 and at 50000 and 75000 would be extra mots at 100000 another council test so on and so forth.	Dec 30, 2013 8:37 PM	
2	MOT and SSDC test should be staggered so that one of them would apply every 6 months thus giving vehicles 2 checks per year.	Nov 27, 2013 10:29 PM	
3	Providing it is not a set tester and the owner of the car can go to any licenced MOT provider	Nov 14, 2013 11:21 AM	
4	I already have 2 MOT's a year and think that is more than enough between the hackney test and the standard MOT	Nov 13, 2013 10:11 AM	
5	to expensive with in current climate	Nov 9, 2013 3:42 PM	
6	Extra MOT should be carried out at normal MOT garages thus costing less for the extra testing	Nov 7, 2013 3:34 PM	
7	If insisting on new cars only the MOT is irrelevant for the 1st 3 years anyway, so seems pointless. Maybe an annual safety check?	Nov 7, 2013 3:30 PM	
8	That would be discriminating. Some other vehicles cover far greater use and mileage than Hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.	Nov 6, 2013 10:22 PM	
9	Are you going to do this to reps vehicles as they do huge mileages too.	Nov 6, 2013 7:31 PM	
10	What use would this provide? Who covers the extra cost? Bad idea.	Nov 6, 2013 6:41 PM	
11	Our vehicles are maintained to a high standard and I feel the current strict MOT is suitable	Nov 6, 2013 4:20 PM	
12	Every 6 months should suffice for MOT, on all vehicles over 3 years old.	Nov 6, 2013 4:03 PM	

Page 13	s, Q16. Do you support this proposal	
1	Subject to there being no additional cost/hardship to owners/operators.	Dec 31, 2013 11:48 PM
2	Don't know the cost implication or ease of this. But sounds reasonable if possible	Dec 30, 2013 8:38 PM
3	All operators should have to use the fitted metre - not treat it as optional.	Nov 28, 2013 12:59 PM
4	Could be fraudulent if different tyre sizes are used for the calibration test and normal road usage.	Nov 27, 2013 10:32 PM
5	neither agree nor disagree only to say if this current system changes and a recognised firm has to confirm calibration this could lead to the potential for questionable practices.	Nov 25, 2013 12:26 PM
6	everybody should use meters as a matter of course different price,s cause hassle	Nov 9, 2013 3:44 PM
7	Open to abuse by those you are obviously trying to deter running a taxi business - counterproductive?	Nov 7, 2013 3:31 PM
8	I cannot see this really matters one way or the other as there still remains Taxis in SSDC that do not use their meters and have no intention of using their meters. Get that stopped first perhaps	Nov 6, 2013 6:42 PM
9	If it passes then it should be ok why make more paper work	Nov 6, 2013 2:42 PM
10	Although the checking of the seal should then be part of the Police/VOSA tests and an offence of tampering with the seal/using an uncalibrated meter, etc, should be introduced with tough penalties.	Nov 6, 2013 12:25 AM
11	Some kind of random spot testing should be incorporated as well. Only low numbers ie 5% but it should still be done.	Nov 4, 2013 8:24 PM

Page 14, Q17. Do you agree that private hire operators should be subject to a criminal records check.		
1	NOT NEEDED EXCEPT FOR OPERATORS WHO DO NOT HOLD AN SSDC TAXI DRIVING LICENCE.	Dec 18, 2013 10:28 AM
2	If they are carrying children to school every day yes.	Nov 25, 2013 12:27 PM
3	they should be made aware of different laws and know how to treat different customers politely especially if they come from another country or have disabilities.	Nov 11, 2013 6:00 PM
4	Basic CRB check should sort the wheat from the chaff	Nov 7, 2013 3:32 PM
5	Do not think it matters too much but yes	Nov 6, 2013 6:43 PM

Page 15, Q18. Do you agree with the policy on relevance of convictions		
1	Subject to further scrutiny.	Dec 31, 2013 11:50 PM
2	Public safety is main concern	Dec 26, 2013 6:32 PM
3	I believe that all drivers/ operators should be beyond reproach and the authorities should be aware of their standing.	Nov 6, 2013 10:26 PM

Page 16, Q19. Do you agree that it is necessary to impose conditions on a licence in order to ensure that minimum standards are met		
1	neither agree or disagree	Nov 25, 2013 12:28 PM
2	They are meant to be 'professional drivers'	Nov 7, 2013 3:35 PM
3	Drivers should be beyond reproach at all times.	Nov 6, 2013 10:29 PM
4	Perhaps the standards should be a bit higher	Nov 6, 2013 6:54 PM
5	IF THEY ARE JUST AND NOT ANOTHER WAY OF SCREWING MONEY OUT OF TAXI OPERATORS .	Nov 6, 2013 3:39 PM

Page 16, Q20. Do you think that the standard pool of conditions is comprehensive enough		
1	Not sure!!.	Dec 31, 2013 11:53 PM

Page 16, Q21. Are there any other conditions that you feel should be added to the list, if so please outline what they are in the comments box below		
1	I intend a letter to the Licensing Committee.	Dec 31, 2013 11:53 PM
2	Anyone operating without proper licences/insurance should automatically be barred from reapplying.	Nov 28, 2013 1:06 PM
3	If points are collected for speeding - perhaps refuse a licence after 6 or 9 points and not wait for them to collect 12 and lose the licence altogether, may also slow down a few taxi drivers and increase passenger safety.	Nov 7, 2013 3:35 PM
4	Driver etiquette towards other drivers and the running of day to day working. Why is it that some drivers are allowed to operate flouting the conditions already in place.	Nov 6, 2013 6:54 PM

Page 17	, Q22. Do you agree with this approach	
1	some of the penalty points are very open to abuse egCompetitors making false allegations either directly or via a third party Members of the public also can make false allegations if they are members of that side of society therefore there must be a very thorough investigation into these allegations before any points are allocated, otherwise a persons living is in jeopardy through no fault of their own. Sometimes although the fare is either clear on the meter or has been told to the customer over the phone they still do not want to pay at the end of the journeyOnce it is widely known they can get you penalised with points after they have complained on some other issue which did not exist, they will do so and there is no proof otherwise unless you have cctv fitted. Like any system there are always loopholes and catches but these should be very clearly thought through before affecting other peoples livelihoods	Nov 14, 2013 11:35 AM
2	See my comments on 20 which I wrote before seeing this	Nov 7, 2013 3:37 PM
3	The police have these powers already.	Nov 6, 2013 7:34 PM
4	Could SSDC introduce Taxi Representatives (Rank Managers) who are trained to a higher standard in Taxi and private hire rules and regs they could be allowed to police the ranks in there area and to help and advise other taxi drivers to maintain a higher standard of professionalism	Nov 6, 2013 7:13 PM
5	About time	Nov 6, 2013 6:56 PM
6	As a professional driver, there should be stricter restrictions on their licence, and no more than 2 minor infringements should be tolerated.	Nov 6, 2013 4:11 PM
7	WHICH HUNTS BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO RELIVENT KNOWLEDGE OR QUILIFYCATIONS TO JUDGE .	Nov 6, 2013 3:40 PM
8	I believe any driver who has 9 points or more should be invited in and the company's insurers should be contacted to establish if that drivers points affect the ability to drive?	Nov 6, 2013 2:08 PM
9	Excellent idea. I would suggest that the information is contained in an easily readable/checkable format that the driver must carry with them (small card?). Additionally the card should identify what transgressions the penalty points were issued for.	Nov 6, 2013 12:29 AM
10	I feel that 12 points is abit generous. In the capacity of a professional driver, there driving should be setting a standard to other drivers. Therefore I would suggest a much lower limit.	Nov 5, 2013 8:18 AM

Page 17, Q23. Are there any other issues that you feel should be included within the penalty points scheme		
1	To be discussed.	Dec 31, 2013 11:54 PM
2	Taxi Drivers thieving other Drivers bookings or making it look like they have been booked when they haven't.	Nov 14, 2013 11:35 AM
3	touting by private hire vehicle,s	Nov 9, 2013 3:47 PM
4	Complaints from the general public should be added to the points system in one way or another	Nov 7, 2013 3:37 PM
5	Driver awareness course and made to watch films of crashes as used by the Fire Service and the Police	Nov 7, 2013 3:37 PM
6	Thr NON use of meters when taken from a rank. taking jobs from any other position than 1st available vehicle, Touting someone elses job pretending to be sent from your company.	Nov 6, 2013 6:56 PM
7	As above, if for some reason, a driver were for some reason to get more than 2 minor infringements, or 6 or more actual penalty points on his licence, then his Hackney licence should be withdrawn immediately and not returned until the licence is clean again.	Nov 6, 2013 4:11 PM
8	The requirement to produce, on demand, to either Police or VOSA at the roadside.	Nov 6, 2013 12:29 AM
9	Parking in non designated area's. Driving at excess speed for the conditions.	Nov 5, 2013 8:18 AM

Page 18, Q26. If the additional enforcement officer time came at an increased vehicle licence cost, how much extra would you consider reasonable in order to pay for this		
1	Is this per year, week or day?????. Please be more explicit!!.	Dec 31, 2013 11:59 PM
2	As a separate cost or a rank fee	Dec 30, 2013 8:43 PM
3	None of it as I feel that license fee is high enough as it is and st present I think the service provided is limited to us in general ie. Appointment making to make an appointment for taxi testing at a time suitabke for ssdc rather than self employes taxi companies who are limited to drop everything. I dont think the support is there and its all on one person all the time. The cost is high for what you actually get I understand adminstration costs and lufton fees but this ciuld be looked into and revised.	Dec 26, 2013 6:56 PM
4	NO AMOUNT	Dec 18, 2013 10:38 AM
5	Take it out of the considerable fees we already pay.	Nov 28, 2013 1:14 PM
6	No extra cost, because there are no guarantee that at any time the post could be withdrawn and the cost paid would still be there.	Nov 25, 2013 12:32 PM
7	I do not feel that the Drivers should have to pay additional extra fees, this i feel is something that the Council should be providing.	Nov 18, 2013 4:22 PM
8	just checkingthe above is per year on the vehicle licence	Nov 14, 2013 11:41 AM
9	Taxis will only pass on the cost to customers, so not really an issue for them	Nov 7, 2013 3:39 PM
10	Licences are incorrectly spelt again	Nov 6, 2013 7:35 PM
11	With the vast amount of Hackney vehicles there are I would think £10 would be ample. I assume this is anual cost?	Nov 6, 2013 6:58 PM
12	ITS ALL ABOUT MONEY WITH SSDC WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR ALL THE HASSLE AND RED TAPE !!!!	Nov 6, 2013 3:48 PM
13	I cannot comment on this as I do not have enough information about the annual cost of an enforcement officer in these circumstances or the predicted financial burden on vehicle licence holders.	Nov 4, 2013 10:19 PM

1	All Hours.	Dec 31, 2013 11:59 l
2	During daylight hours 8 to 5 and perhaps 2 dedicated officers would be better to get problems sorted out	Dec 26, 2013 6:56 P
3	ANY TIME.	Dec 18, 2013 10:38 A
4	As and when appropriate	Nov 18, 2013 4:22 P
5	this depends on where you are located as a business. I work on the boundary of Mendip and South Somerset from Castle Cary station rank mostly. There have always been issues at this location and it would be impossible to have an enforcement officer there much of the time. However mostly the usual time you see Enforcement Officers is to check that we/or our cars are correctnot to catch out visiting taxis who take unbooked trade from there most of the time	Nov 14, 2013 11:41 A
6	School run times and weekends when demand is highest and drivers are rushing to get to next customer	Nov 7, 2013 3:39 P
7	During peak hours Monday - Friday, Late night Friday & Saturday	Nov 6, 2013 10:33 P
8	Sunday cover could be an on~line service of support	Nov 6, 2013 7:17 Pl
9	I WORK LONG HOURS TO MAKE A LIVING SO SHOULD THE LICENSING OFFICERS AS YOU NEVER NO WHEN SOMEONE IS BREAKING THE LAW . HOW MANY PEOPLE DO THE SSDC CATCH AND PROSECUTE IN I YEAR? !!!!! IT DOESENT COVER THE WAGES I BET WHAT THEY ARE FINED!!	Nov 6, 2013 3:48 PI
10	A taxi rank is where the customers go to first car not any where on ther rank and cars not moveing down to let others on	Nov 6, 2013 2:50 PI
11	I have a comment about drivers hours. I woul like to know if there are any provisions on checking break times for drivers who drive in the very early hours on Sunday evenings and during the week i.e. night club work etc. The reason for this is a lot of children are being transported to schools from as early as 0700hrs. Some drivers are finishing work at 0300 hrs etc and are then transporting these children. I would like to raise my concerns about the above as there appears to be no restriction when it comes to driving hours for hackney license holders?	Nov 6, 2013 2:18 PI
12	These time slots represent a high frequency time for Licenced vehicles to be operating and therefore a greater number of vehicles could be checked in a short amount of time. That said there is also an argument for varied times and days to capture a range of operators/vehicles and ensure that standards are maintained consistently throughout the week.	Nov 4, 2013 10:19 P

Page 1	9, Q32. what is your disability	
1	Aversion to stupid surveys which have not been spelt checked.	Nov 6, 2013 7:37 PM

1 Severe back problems

Nov 6, 2013 10:36 PM