

Radio Cabs

(Rayford Ltd.)

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Dear Laurence Willis

Firstly please allow me to introduce ourselves, we are Radio Cabs Taxis, we have been trading in Yeovil for over 30 years under the same management and are the largest taxi company in the area with nearly 40 cars and 75 employees. However we are currently experiencing difficulty in recruiting drivers.

The reason is this, last April the Council introduced a Driving Standard Agency driving test for all new driver applications, at the time we supported this initiative, but recently the lead time for bookings for a driving test has stretched to three months, a potential driver now needs to wait that time in order to take a driving test, this means a three month gap in between a need for new drivers and the ability to fill the positions, at present with have a number of vacancies and the earliest test date available are now at the start of November.

This, as you can imagine is causing some difficulties for us, if we can not recruit new staff to cope with the winter demand we will be unable to provide the service the people of Yeovil have been used to. The problem is with the DSA and not SSDC. That being said South Somerset District Council is the only council in Somerset and Dorset who insist on this test, West Somerset, Taunton Dean, Mendip and Sedgemoor Councils do not use it. It is not a national legal requirement for taxi drivers, many councils use their own assessments or knowledge tests.

We have contacted the Driver Standard Agency about this and the have cited internal staff problems and see no resolution in the immediate future.

We are asking therefore that until the DSA can give South Somerset District Council a guarantee of a test date within a reasonable time limit in the South Somerset area, say within four weeks, that the Council suspended the requirement for the driving test to allow all taxi companies to recruit for the winter period.

We are willing to send a representative to the Council to state our case should that be needed.

Yours faithfully.

A M Rossiter

CC to all SSDC councillors

Rayford Ltd.

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