



## AGENDA ITEM: 5

Report for:	Licensing and Health & Safety Enforcement Committee
Date of meeting:	22 October 2024
PART:	I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	<b>Proposed revisions to Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy – Outcome of public consultation</b>
Contact:	Sally McDonald – Licensing Manager Kim Knight, Lead Licensing Officer
Purpose of report:	To present the outcome of the consultation exercise taken in respect of proposals to revise some parts of the Taxi Licensing Policy.
Recommendations	That the Committee consider the responses received, and agree on the revisions to the content of the Policy as per the options in the report.
Corporate objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clean, safe and enjoyable environment</li> <li>• Building strong and vibrant communities</li> <li>• Ensuring economic growth and prosperity</li> <li>• Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery</li> </ul>
Implications:	<p><u>Financial</u> It is expected that the revisions proposed will be cost neutral to the Council, however, any impact will be considered during the next fee setting process.</p> <p><u>Value for Money</u> Having the policy in place seeks to increase efficiency of the work in this area by providing guidelines that drivers should follow when working in the Hackney and Private Hire trade.</p> <p><u>Risk Implications</u> The policy seeks to reduce risk to the public and to the Council by having clear requirements for both new applicants and existing licence holders, and providing clarity for Officers and members when decision making.</p>

	<p><u>Equalities Implications</u> An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed when the Policy was initially presented in 2021.</p>
Consultees:	<p>Consultation was carried out with the whole licensed taxi trade, including all drivers and operators, sustainability groups, neighbouring local authorities in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Council.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council, and Portfolio holders for Corporate and Commercial Services and Climate Change were also consulted.</p> <p>A wider public consultation was also undertaken on the Dacorum Borough Council website to give the public an opportunity to respond.</p>
Background papers:	<p><a href="#">Department of Transport Best Practice Guidance November 2023</a></p> <p><a href="#">Current Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy</a></p> <p>Grace periods: Section 4, paragraph 5.8, pages 10/11</p> <p>Knowledge Tests: Section 12, paragraphs 12.1 and 12.3, pages 22/23</p> <p>Emissions: Section 19 paragraphs 19.3 and 19.4, page 33</p>
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. At the meeting of the Licensing Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, Members agreed that draft revisions to the Dacorum Borough Council Taxi Policy be put out for consultation for a period of six weeks.
- 1.2. Consultation took place between 7<sup>th</sup> August and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024. This report is to advise Members of the outcome of the consultation on the three main points of draft revision that were previously considered, grace periods, how the knowledge test is carried out, and the section of the emissions policy relating to the deadline for change over to hybrid/electric vehicles for the whole fleet.
- 1.3. 119 responses were received, and a petition from the Dacorum Hackney and Private Hire Trade Association containing 129 signatures. The petition requests a 28 day 'grace period' be maintained, and that the current written Knowledge test remains unchanged. The petitioners agree with the proposed changes to emissions requirements. Consultation responses are set out at Annexes A1 – A120.
- 1.4. The draft Policy is set out at Annex B.

## 2. KEY MATTERS ARISING THROUGH CONSULTATION

### 2.1. Point 1: Grace periods

#### Questions arising from consultation:

- Drivers may have unforeseen circumstances, i.e. holidays/bereavement that prevent them from renewing so would like to retain a period after expiry.

Answer: See paragraph 2.1.3.

- DBS results come back late, hence the need for a grace period.

Answer: With the existing policy requirement for drivers to sign up to the DBS update service, every driver who is not signed up should do so at their next renewal, which should address this issue going forward.

2.1.1. The original proposal was to amend paragraph 5.8 to provide clarity on the removal of grace periods at the end of the term in which the licence is in force (which was already included but not clear), and confirm that once a licence has expired it has ended, and therefore cannot be re-instated, meaning the driver will need to re-start the application process as a new grant.

2.1.2. A total of 74 individuals (plus the 129 that signed the petition) responded to confirm that they would like to maintain a grace period. 27 individuals agreed with the Council's proposals. 18 individuals gave unclear responses or N/A responses.

2.1.3. Due to the fact that the licence ends, the only way this can be offered is if the driver completes his application, pays the associated fee and submits it to the Licensing Team before the expiry date – so if the driver has any circumstances in which the licence cannot be renewed straight away, by submitting the documents before expiry Licensing can keep the plate or badge 'live' rather than letting it expire, and the driver can be reassured that the licence remains valid until such a time as they wish to complete the application and collect their plate or badge. It should be noted that the renewed licence would continue from the existing expiry date.

2.1.4. It should be made clear that as already confirmed in paragraph 5.8 of the existing policy, once the expiry date has passed, if the application is on hold and has not been completed at the request of the driver, they cannot work until the licence and badge or plates are in their possession.

2.1.5. To support this, drivers receive their renewal application reminders between two and three months before expiry giving ample notice of the expiry date, and with the policy requirement (since June 2021) for all drivers to sign up to the DBS update service, coupled with the fact that applications can be completed by e-mail and payments can be made online, there should be no reason for a badge or plate to expire.

2.1.6. It should also be noted that drivers that are not on the update service will still need to personally present their identity documents to Licensing Officers – this is not a requirement if the driver has signed up to the update service, hence the policy requirement for all drivers to sign up, which will facilitate remote renewals

without the potential delays due to DBS results not being returned before the expiry date.

### **Options for the Committee – Grace Periods**

1. To agree the draft revision to paragraph 5.8 of the Taxi Policy as initially proposed for the reasons given in paragraphs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3:

“5.8.The Council will aim to send a reminder to licence holders before their licence expires in order to assist them in prompt submission of renewal applications. Please note that the Council is not obliged to do this and the responsibility of ensuring licences do not expire remains with the licence holder. Applicants must therefore allow adequate time for the processing of their renewal applications. The Council is not responsible for delays due to the actions of external bodies such as the DBS. **There is also no grace period for renewing a licence, once the licence has expired it ceases to be, and the applicant will need to start the application process again – this will include any knowledge test and pre-requisite training requirements that the Council has in place.**”

2. To amend the proposed policy wording to confirm that if the application and payment is submitted prior to the expiry date the licence can be maintained as a ‘live’ licence and the application can be completed at a later date if needed. However, to be clear, if the expiry date has passed and the pre-requisite checks have not taken place at the request of the driver, then drivers are not able to work until the new licence is issued. Any amended wording to be agreed with the Chairman of Licensing Health and Safety Enforcement Committee prior to publication.

### **2.2. Point 2: Knowledge Test**

#### **Questions arising from consultation:**

- Are the proposals an exercise to increase Council revenue?

Answer: No. In line with fee setting principles, the Council must aim for cost recovery only, hence the reason why fees are reviewed and set each year.

- Concerns that changing the test arrangements will increase competition for existing drivers.

Answer: please see 2.2.6 below.

- TFL have introduced more stringent measures such as safety training etc.

Answer: Disability awareness, safeguarding, advanced driver and communication skills training are now policy requirements for new applicants, in addition to existing written test requirements.

- Drivers from other authorities, Uber and Bolt are coming into the borough unchallenged.

Answer: With the introduction of the De-regulation Act 2015, cross border hire is now a legal activity. If an operator does not have an available driver they are entitled in law to either refuse the job, or use a driver from another authority in which one of their offices is situated. Many operators use the Cordic system, which has a 'pool' feature so any jobs they cannot fulfil can be picked up by other operators. These transactions must be recorded and made available to Licensing Officers for examination if requested.

For Hackneys, should plying for hire take place in the borough, drivers should report the vehicle details to the Council, who can then report to the appropriate Council, but we are not able to enforce against these vehicles ourselves.

Uber and Bolt are essentially another 'operator' – in Uber's case, TfL is the 'Operator' and this covers the Greater London area – this area cuts off in Dacorum at Bourne End. Therefore, an Uber can pick up and drop off in Hemel Hempstead, it can also drop off in Tring and Berkhamsted but cannot pick up there. The enforcing authority is TfL, or the borough in which the vehicle is registered. Neither UBER or Bolt are registered as operators in the Dacorum area.

- Drivers that live outside the borough are put off from applying because the test is too difficult.

Answer: The draft proposals to revise the arrangements are aimed at working towards Department of Transport Taxi Licensing Best Practice, so any revised written test would run alongside the disability awareness, safeguarding, advanced driver awareness and communication skills training courses that were made a policy requirement in 2021 and that all applicants are currently required to achieve.

- Drivers should be offered incentives for exemplary service.

Answer: The Council's role is a regulatory one, to ensure protection of the public by establishing all drivers are 'fit and proper' to hold a licence, so this is not something they can offer. If a driver works for a company, then potentially this would be their decision.

2.2.1. The draft proposal was to put forward a revision to the way in which the Council's Knowledge Test is conducted with revisions to paragraph 12.3. (a)(b) and (c) of the Taxi Policy.

2.2.2. Currently the knowledge test comprises 86 route and 'points of interest' based questions (Sections A and B) and a 20 question section on knowledge of the Councils conditions (Section C). Tests are 2.5 hours in duration, with a pass mark of 66 points for Sections A and B, and 15 for section C. In 2017 proposals were put forward to simplify the Knowledge Test, however, this was not agreed by the Committee at that time. Since 2017 further training courses have been added to the 'Knowledge' requirements for advanced driving, disability awareness, communications skills and safeguarding. The implementation of these courses reflects best practice guidance. It was therefore considered that the combination of the training courses and a lengthy and complex written test further added to the difficulty of the process, which would be a departure from best practice.

2.2.3. As confirmed in the Committee report on 30 July 2024, it is clear Dacorum currently have the most stringent written test, and the revisions were proposed to not only address the increase in the use of technology for route planning, but

to provide a more level playing field for drivers who may wish to work in Dacorum but find it easier to apply in other nearby authorities. The new proposals also reflect the latest Department of Transport best practice guidance, issued in November 2023.

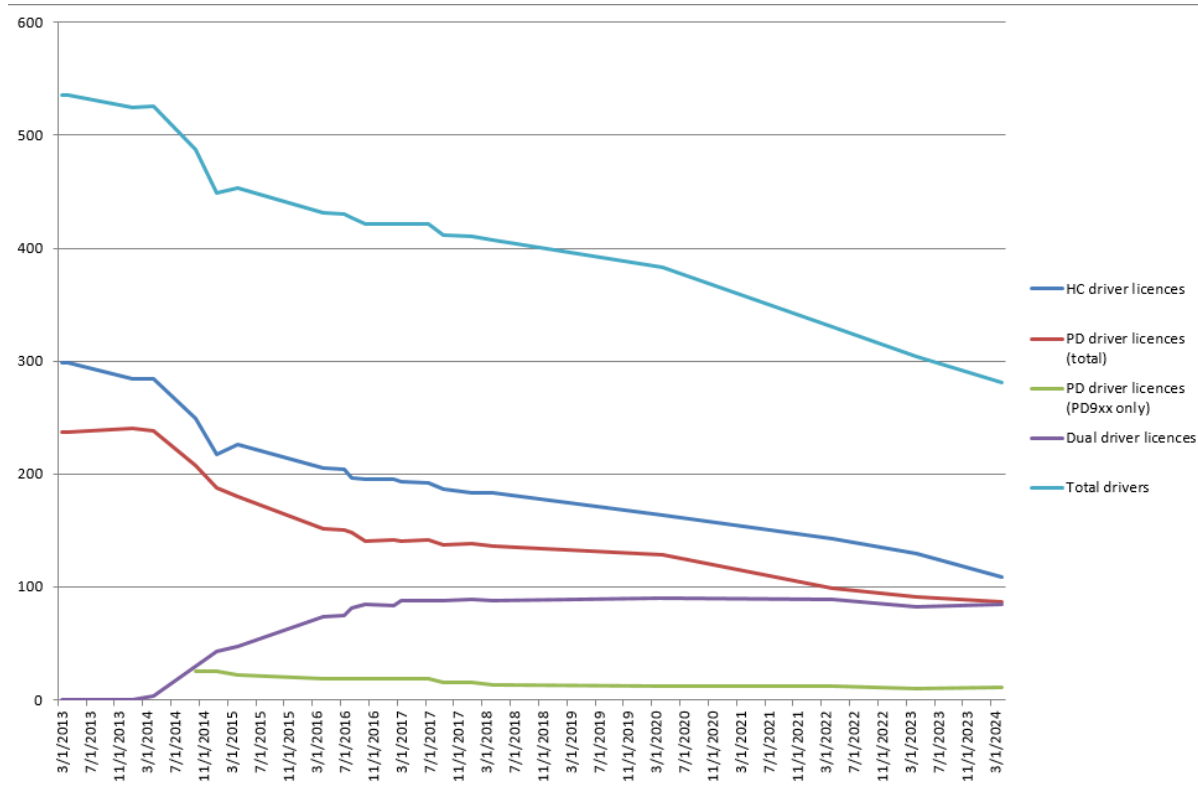
2.2.4. The requirements for advanced driving, disability awareness, communication skills and safeguarding training will not be changing as a result of any change to the arrangements for the written test, should changes to the written test be agreed.

2.2.5. 66 individuals plus the 129 individuals on the petition responded indicating they did not want the current written Knowledge test changed. 40 individuals supported a change to a different level of testing. 13 individuals had no comments to make or their responses were mixed or unclear. The main concerns appear to be that to make the written Knowledge Test 'easier' despite the other training requirements being in place, would encourage more drivers to apply in the borough, thus creating more competition for the current trade, and a potential fall in standards should the test arrangements be revised. However there were other concerns raised by drivers who currently drive for other authorities and would like to drive in Dacorum but are being discouraged from doing so due to the complexity of the current written test. In addition some operators in the borough have raised the issue of losing drivers and difficulty in replacing them.

2.2.6. The table below shows a downward trend of drivers licensed in Dacorum since 2013 to 1<sup>st</sup> April this year. These figures are as follows:

Date	Totals	Hackney	Private Hire	Executive	Dual licence
31/3/2013	536	299	237	-	-
7/4/2014	526	284	238	-	4
7/4/2015	453	226	180	22	47
14/4/2016	431	205	152	19	74
31/3/2017	422	193	141	19	88
5/4/2018	407	183	136	14	88
17/4/2020	383	164	129	12	90
3/4/2022	331	143	99	12	89
2/4/2023	304	130	91	10	83
1/4/2024	281	109	87	11	85

## Decrease in drivers since 2013



2.2.7. The latest Department of Transport taxi and private hire vehicle licensing best practice guidance for licensing authorities in England confirms that applicants for hackney licences should undertake a topographical test, but licensing authorities should adopt the principle of ‘ensuring that barriers to entry are not unnecessarily high.’ For private hire licensing, ‘licensing authorities should not require any topographical knowledge or navigational tests for private hire vehicles’ due to the increased use of satellite navigation and route planning when the journey is booked’. With that in mind, it is considered the combination of the new training requirements, together with a shorter topographical exam should be sufficient, and operate in accordance with best practice.

2.2.8. The guidance goes further and states that while it is policies should be proportionate to allow choice of safe services for passengers, we should not be ‘unduly stringent’ in a way that may restrict the supply of taxi and private hire vehicle services either cost wise or ‘restricting entry to the trade’. To quote the guidance ‘Licensing authorities should recognise that too restrictive an approach can be counter-productive, restricting the licensed trade to such an extent that the public resort to the use of unlicensed, unvetted and uninsured drivers and vehicles.’

### Options for the Committee – written Knowledge test arrangements

1. To agree to change the written part of the Knowledge Test in line with the proposals put forward for consultation (training requirements for safeguarding, advanced driving awareness, disability awareness and communications skills to remain as per the existing policy with no changes);
2. To keep the existing arrangements for the written Knowledge Test.

3. That a different proposal for the written test is agreed by the Committee, with the Policy wording to be confirmed with final agreement of the Chairman of the Licensing Health and Safety and Enforcement Committee prior to publication.

## 2.3. Emissions

### Questions arising from consultation

- What is happening around providing EVCPs on the Taxi Rank?

Answer: The Climate Emergency Team have confirmed that there is currently no plans to install EVCPs for taxi ranks, however, this is a gap at district and county level. The team will be drafting a progress statement in the near future which will feature this issue.

- Can the Council provide subsidies for drivers to obtain new vehicles?

Answer: The Council is tied to cost recovery in providing the taxi function, so there are no options to provide subsidies.

2.3.1. The proposal was to revise paragraphs 19.3 and 19.4 to remove the existing deadline to require all vehicles licensed by Dacorum Borough Council as Hackney or Private Hire vehicles to be hybrid/electric standard by 2027 due to the change to the national deadline for changeover to electric vehicles from 2030 to 2035 but to maintain the requirements for all vehicles to be Euro 6 or above by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. At the Committee it was agreed to amend the proposal to the following:

“19.3. At renewal – Up until 31/03/2025 licenses for existing Euro 5 vehicles will be renewed. From 01/04/2025 vehicle licences will not be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that does not meet or exceed Euro 6 emissions standards.

19.4. We are currently considering the expectation for all vehicles to meet a hybrid/electric standard, and this will be encouraged. As the infrastructure and affordability/practicality of hybrid/electric vehicles improves any changes to current emissions standards will be reviewed. No new vehicles will be licensed, and no existing vehicle licences will be renewed after 2035 if they are petrol/diesel.”

2.3.2. 100 individuals (including the 129 individuals that signed the petition) supported the proposal to extend emissions requirements to 2035, 5 individuals were against the proposal and 14 individuals did not put forward comments or submitted mixed or unclear responses.

### Options for Emissions

1. To confirm that no new vehicles will be licensed, and no existing vehicle licences will be renewed after 2035 if they are petrol and diesel as per the original proposal.
2. To consider a limit before 2035 if the Committee agree it is appropriate to do so.
3. To retain the original Policy requirement of all vehicles to be hybrid/electric by 2027.



### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1. That the Licensing and Health and Safety Enforcement Committee consider the consultation responses and finalise the content of the sections put forward for revision together with other minor updates to links/dates where amended.
- 3.2. When the finalised revisions are agreed, they are confirmed with the Chairman of the Licensing of Health and Safety Enforcement Committee and adopted.

**From:**

**Sent:** 05 August 2024 16:20

**To:** Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Sally McDonald <Sally.Mcdonald@dacorum.gov.uk>; Jonathan Gale <Jonathan.Gale@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Meeting 31st July 2024

**Importance:** High

Thank you for allowing me to attend the meeting and the opportunity to voice my views.

After a week's deliberation on these important matters I would like to express my views in this email and also kindly ask this email to be forwarded to all the councillors that were present at the meeting.

#### Removal Of written tests

As one of the largest operators in Dacorum and having held an operators license for nearly 30 years, I have found it increasingly difficult to recruit new drivers due to the difficulties in obtaining a license from Dacorum.

This has allowed the likes of UBER, BOLT and drivers from other Boroughs, as far as Wolverhampton, coming and working in our borough with total disregard to the policies that we have to adhere to. This can have a massive impact on health and safety for the residents of Dacorum. To eliminate this problem I believe that Dacorum licensing can offer the out of borough cars an exchange of their current licenses to Dacorum licenses which will ultimately give greater reassurances for the health and safety of the Dacorum residents and also increase revenue for the council.

Alternatively for new private hire drivers there should be no test, the only requirements should be DBS check, medical and English language test for the next 2 years to make sure that we as a borough do not lose this valuable service and are left to the mercy of faceless corporations.

#### Emissions

I think this is a very important issue which on reflection as an operator and investor in vehicles, I believe we have not developed the technology or infrastructure to meet the targets set by Dacorum for 2027. I believe that the government has extended this deadline to 2035 after great observations and views from vehicle manufactures. Therefore my suggestion is that we follow the government guidelines to license the last vehicles on the set date of 2035 plus whatever years are added by the government. As this uncertainty will cause disruption and lack of investment going forward as it currently stands by Dacorum Policy that in 2027 if drivers or companies do not meet the hybrid or electric standards you will have no more than 10 vehicles operating in the area. I believe a consultation is not required as this will take up valuable decision making time to go forward. Every council has set their own targets for the emissions policy. I also believe that the guidelines from central government are the only policy we should be following as the local council policy can be challenged in the court of law.

I look forward to hearing your views and responses in the coming weeks.

I am available to answer any questions and give further views in connection with any taxi matters.

Kindest regards

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Good

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

All good as it is

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

You really need to look into this further not everyone is I. Favour of electric cars

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think we should have a grace period at least for 90 days

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

In my opinion we should keep knowledge test for both hackney and private hire because if we don't have knowledge test passengers will suffer a lot

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agreed with this decision 100/ we should change it at least 2035

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

We should have grace period at least 90 day

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

In my opinion I think we should keep for both hackney and private knowledge test

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree with this decision at least 2035

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Agreed

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I think there is no need for a road knowledge test for private hire as many other councils give private hire drivers' licences without any street knowledge, especially for school-run drivers. As I have over 25 drivers those who are only doing School runs. As driver had to visit the School Children's parent carers before commencing the runs. This means our Council can generate more money from operators.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Agreed but it is going to be very difficult as there are not many large vehicles ( wheelchair Accessible) available in the categories explained

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Grace periods should still apply if the reason for non issue of a licence is due to delays by the DBS service of more than 6 weeks from the initial application.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I agree that private hire vehicle drivers should be exempt. Particularly as Uber [& other providers] operating in the Dacorum area without having been subject to any such test. Whilst I understand that the need relating to such drivers is outside the control of Dacorum Borough Council, it did create an uneven playing field for locally licensed drivers. The reason given for continuing to require a local knowledge test for Hackney drivers of, "not sufficient time for a route to be planned by satellite navigation" is nonsense. Apps such as 'Google Maps' & 'Waze' are almost instantaneous at providing the best route to any destination. Such apps are constantly used, even by the most experienced Hackney drivers, due to the vast number of road situations, (such as traffic, roadworks, road closures or accidents), which can lead to a requirement to divert from the normal route. Such apps are a modern requirement of the professional driver in the 21st century. This makes the local knowledge test obsolete in terms of offering anything positive to the driver or passenger experience or safety.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree that level 6 emissions compliance should be the standard going forward. I feel, however, that any regulation involving the introduction of hybrid or electric vehicles would be inappropriate and premature until the network for electric vehicles locally is already in place at a level needed to cope with the demand such a change in legislation would cause.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Not long enough

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Making it simpler is not the answer all drivers should prove that they can read and write.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Disgusting, the expense involved does not reflect the current climate and the drivers ability to earn a living. couple that without the amount of non Dacorun cars plying thier trade in town. so your changes only penalise Registered Dacorun cars.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think DBC should allow 28 days Grace period. Reason say you are on holiday or Bereavement you should be allowed the above time.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

What is the need to get rid of Knowledge test? This was previously challenged in a committee meeting when taxi association hired a Barrister to oppose this change. We believe that this will flood the town with drivers from other towns and this will impact the standard of service offered. You mention about satnavs are we now to believe that you don't need to learn the English language as there are translation apps available?

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Emissions policy is good idea providing you have the infrastructure to deal with such change, currently this is not in place to cope with such change.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think drivers should be granted grace periods as sometimes thirds parties can take long to respond which would be unfair on a drivers who needs to earn a living.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I think the knowledge tests is a great way to ensure drivers have knowledge of the area, regardless of prebooked or not, it is the drivers duty to know the shortest and quickest route, without knowledge this is not possible. Also to add to this - with the current situation of taxi's and Uber drivers in hemel hempstead this will become a gateway to obtain a license easily.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

With current living costs only set on rising and going up, and the work load decreasing with increased number of taxi's it is almost becoming impossible to earn a decent living. Adding more pressure on to drivers to replace their vechicles is very unfair.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think if a genuine reason is provided such as illness and or death of a immediate family member this should be considered. I would state that proof be supplied.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I believe knowledge tests are pivotal in the integrity of the trade. All current drivers have taken the test so to remove or limit this would make the previous testing unnecessary. 1 key issue is that drivers are constantly utilizing sat navs as they have no knowledge of the local area. They engage and touch the screen which in itself is a driving offense. When you consider the number of cars licensed against the usage it clearly shows there are already too many taxis licensed. By removing Private Hire testing this will allow companies unfair advantage and licence vehicles and have drivers driving without any local knowledge. More needs to be done about the many companies having drivers licenced by other boroughs but operating in Dacorum. There are a number of Uttlesford. Bucks. Wolverhampton and Watford plated vehicles working for Dacorum companies.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

If this now means that only electric/ hybrid vehicles will be played from 2035 then I would agree as the original 2027 figure was far too early and the cost implications would be too much.

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**From:** >

**Sent:** 06 August 2024 13:03

**To:** Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Proposed changes to Dacorum Borough Council Taxi Licensing Policy

I think should extend from 2027 to 2035

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

There definitely should be a reasonable grace period for expiring licences .

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

No

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I totally agree with extending the requirements to have hybrid/electric vehicles by 2027 . Drivers were heavily impacted during covid times and will struggle to finance these vehicles within such a short period . I also feel the requirements to be euro6 by April 2025 should also be extended by at least 2 years.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No grace

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

No needed for private hire due to the technology now available but test for Hackney drivers should stay

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree all licensed vehicles should be euro 6 but NOT that all vehicles after 2035 if they are diesel or petrol will not be licensed I believe that in 10 years time 1) the infrastructure will still not be in place 2) the price of electric vehicles will still be to expensive 3) there will still be a very weak lack of choice of vehicles to purchase 4) you will probably also end up with no WAV vehicles due to price as they are more expensive to purchase at moment and if WAV drivers are forced to purchase electric WAV they will not bother because of price & you would not recoup your outlay Do Dacorum Council have any plans for electric charging points on the taxi rank(s) ? Last time I inquired the answer was no

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

There should be no grace periods

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Knowledge test are a vital part of the application. Knowledge of area is important can't always rely on Sat navs

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Not realistic especially for wheelchair accessible vehicles

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

One year or over

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Yes it should stay as knowledge test for both

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Having test it will filter people who can not communicate

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Should depend on circumstances ie breavement

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Knowledge tests for private hire should be abolished Hackney tests should be more stringent and all Hackney should have credit card machines

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Policy should be followed on central government guidelines 2035

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

should stay the same especially for private hire

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

when i have to change my car in 2025 will probably be the end for me won't be able to afford a new one shame I like my job

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think there should always be a grace period expired licences.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I don't have any comments on this matter

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I think 2027 rule should be amended and allow vehicles until 2035 as long as it's Euro6

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Grace should be defined as to allow the licence to be held if circumstances are out of control such as DBS checks taking longer than usual, as this is still an issue for many drivers despite having applied early.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I absolutely agree that the old style of sitting exams for Private Hire drivers is outdated. Many drivers often do not travel far from their local area unless to an airport or hospital and any addresses can be looked up before the commencement of the journey. As all our bookings are taken by the operator and are pre-booked they are pre-planned, ensuring that the journey time is adequate for the booking,

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

The majority of newer vehicles are Hybrid and Euro 6 now so I feel this proposal is correct.

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

We should have grace period at least 90 days

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

In my opinion I think we should keep for both hackney and private knowledge test

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree with this decision at least 2035

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think there should be grace period for licence renewal just incase if some drivers forget to renew on time

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

No views

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree on 2035 as long as it's Euro6

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

It should be kept in place. Allows someone time incase they have to repeat MOT and spend time repairing car.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

They should be kept for both private and hackney, it's not fair if you remove for one. Business is low so if you remove test there will be influx of new private hire drivers.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Fine with proposed changes if extended to 2035.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Should be a grace period for expired license

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I think knowledge test is very important for local knowledge.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I think there is no need for that until ulez change



**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I believe they should be a grace period. The consequences for a Driver overlook in the renewal of their license due to circumstances beyond their control could be quite devastating. I think the grace period just enables Driver in Exceptional circumstances. ( I.e. illness, family bereavement) . To renew their expired license.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I believe the knowledge test provide a standard that only Decorum drivers have. The sad thing is that this is being undermined by the free run of other license authorities vehicles within our borough I feel the abolishment of this knowledge test would have no effect on preventing out of borough vehicles operating within our borough but one thing the knowledge test does do is maintain the standard of a Decorum taxi driver

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I feel the current Standard on diesel vehicles is more than sufficient to protect the environment also with the intervention of hydrogen powered cars in the future Will outstrip electric vehicles and would be way more practical and before you enforce drivers to change over to electric vehicles I think it's important you should consider the placement of charging port on the Taxi ranks as at the moment it is my understanding that there are no places to charge your taxi on the rank

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Two weeks

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

The knowledge test should be explained on a book with all informations.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

There should be grants for taxi drivers to buy electric cars for a better environments.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Grace period should be given more

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

vehicle regulatory system under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Vehicles and drivers may only lawfully carry out bookings made through an operator who is licensed by the same authority, and the location of the operator's base (and thus licensing authority) will determine from which authority all other licences must be obtained. 23.2. The term 'operate' is defined at section 80 of the 1976 Act as meaning, in the course of a business, to make provision for the invitation or acceptance of bookings for private hire vehicles. Various legal cases have examined this definition in detail, as a result of which a wide range of businesses will require licensing under these provisions – the meaning will extend greatly beyond the provision of local 'minicab' services. 23.3. Operators play a key role in ensuring that the public are kept safe, that drivers are suitably trained, experienced and supported to deliver the best service possible, and that vehicles are kept in a clean, safe and sound condition at all times. Although operators will generally have less direct contact with the public than drivers (with the exception of receiving bookings for journeys), their other duties in ensuring the safety of the public mean that the Council must apply similar checks when considering applications for licences, as we must be satisfied that prospective operators are fit and proper persons. 23.4. It should be noted that it is a criminal offence under the 1976 Act for any person to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement or omit any material particular in connection with an application for an operator's licence.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I'm happy if euro 6 emissions car can be used up to 2035

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think 1 month grace period should be allowed as to cover any mistake

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I think decorum borough council has knowledge test to ensure good standard of private hire and Hackney carriage drivers to ensure passenger safety and reliability so I think to shorten the taxi test or private hire drivers is lowering the standard and is not appreciated.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I think we need to follow national standard of emissions and as longer vehicle is compliant with national emissions standards it should be good to be a taxi

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Yes there is no harm to give driver a grace periods for expiring licences it is quite usual that the taxi end up in garage for major service or other repairs.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

That should be ok to have topography knowledge for Private hire as they have pre planed journeys and no flag down to have more Dacorum drivers will discourage other surrounding Borough to come and work in Dacorum.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Euro6 petrol hybrid and Ev are the way forward petrol hybrid ate much more efficient as they have no range anxiety for the drivers and passenger.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

This is sufficient enough and agree

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

This should have been done a few years ago , all surrounding boroughs have already done this and as a result Dacorum have lost 50 drivers from our kings ace company to other authorities. The private hire test should be abolished and replaced by green penny courses that is much more beneficial because it trains drivers on safety and what to do and not to do.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

This is more than adequate and is agreed

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think this is a good idea

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Private hire knowledge test should be taken out and replaced by health and safety courses , drivers learn a lot more , Hackney knowledge test should be very basic and also have to do the same safety courses

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Drivers have more than enough time to adjust so we agree on this

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Not reply

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Local knowledge test is very important and safety

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Not needed

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Minimum two weeks

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

No comment

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

At least euro six ,

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 22 August 2024 11:49  
**To:** Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@dacorum.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Urgent

**\*\*\*DOES THIS EMAIL LOOK SUSPICIOUS? Remember to check the sender email address\*\*\***

CAUTION: This message was sent from outside of Dacorum BC. Please do not reply to, click links or open attachments UNLESS you recognise the source of this email and know the content is safe. Please report all suspicious emails.

To Licensing Team,

It has come to my attention that Dacorum council is in current talks about making the taxi test more passable for some drivers.

I wanted to pass my thoughts over as a taxi driver who is currently LICENSED FROM A DIFFERENT COUNCIL but living in Hemel Hempstead!

My home is in Hemel Hempstead and my children also attend schools in Hemel Hempstead. So why is it that me and fellow drivers are having to go and submit fees to other councils to obtain licences in order to work where we could just as easily pay these fees to our local council instead. Surely this would benefit my local council in generating some extra revenue.

I have a group of fellow taxi drivers who are all licenced out of Hemel yet living in Hemel who have the same views- We would rather be paying our fees to our home council as opposed to another council who is willing to give us licences.

So with this in mind I would like the team to take my views into consideration when making a decision on the accessibility for the Dacorum taxi test.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think there should be grace periods after the expiry of the license because anyone can be stuck in unexpected circumstances

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I think the knowledge test should stay as it is Because it safety issues driver should know the area without any device so he can concentrate on the road well And also relaxing the test will flood the drivers in Dacorum and the current drivers are already struggling to earn the minimum wage

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I am agree with this

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think there should be a grace period after the expiry of the license. Because anyone can face unforeseen circumstances. Off course everyone should put their applications for renewal well in which majority does but grace period provides the fairness for those who may be stuck in a tricky situation. So I will oppose finishing the grace period.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I think knowledge test should stay as it is, Because first of it assures the safety of the passengers as driver knows his way around. Secondly this is council's pride that they have such high standards, when passengers get to know they get impressed with this. Lastly relaxing the test will flood more drivers into decorum while existing drivers are struggling to earn the minimum wage.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

As most of drivers struggling to earn the living so delaying the emissions policy to 2035 is appreciated. This will drivers some time.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I believe a grace period should be provided for hackney carriage/private hire drivers. The consequences for a driver overlooking the renewal of their license due to circumstances beyond their control could be quite devastating. I think the grace period enables drivers in exceptional circumstances i.e. illness or family bereavement to renew their expired license.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I believe the knowledge test provide a good standard that only Dacorum drivers posses. It is unfortunate that this is being undermined by drivers licensed by other licensing authorities i.e. three rivers operating within the Dacorum area with no real consequence/policing. The real reason there are fewer new hackney carriage/private hire drivers applying within Dacorum is not down to their being a knowledge test it is more so to do with reduced/lower earning potentials. A unanimous example being out of borough licensed vehicles freely operating within Dacorum. This has severely impacted the livelihood of Dacorum drivers hence there are falling number of drivers as they are forced to look for employment/jobs elsewhere to cover their living expenses. The knowledge test only maintains a good standard of drivers within Dacorum, and I feel the knowledge test under no circumstances be abolished or made easier. This initiative will only negatively impact the taxi trade in Dacorum, by allowing incompetent drivers to operate on the roads.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I feel the current Standard on diesel vehicles is more than sufficient to protect the environment also with the intervention of hydrogen powered cars in the future will outstrip electric vehicles and would be a lot more practical and before you enforce drivers to change over to electric vehicles I think it's important you should consider the placement of charging port on the Taxi ranks as at the moment it is my understanding that there are no places to charge your taxi on the rank. In addition, the outlay required for an electric vehicle is just not affordable for drivers operating within Dacorum at the moment.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think it should be at least 3 months so it gives driver time for it

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I think the knowledge test is fine as it is

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I think the policy should be extended work is quiet and if it is quiet then we won't meet the deadline because of no money

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

1. I believe a grace period should be provided for hackney carriage drivers. The consequences for a driver overlooking the renewal of their license due to circumstances beyond their control could be quite devastating. I think the grace period enables drivers in exceptional circumstances i.e. illness or family bereavement to renew their expired license.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

2. I believe the knowledge test provide a good standard that only Dacorum drivers posses. It is unfortunate that this is being undermined by drivers licensed by other licensing authorities i.e. three rivers operating within the Dacorum area with no real consequence/policing. The real reason there are fewer new hackney carriage/private hire drivers applying within Dacorum is not down to their being a knowledge test it is more so to do with reduced/lower earning potentials. A unanimous example being out of borough licensed vehicles freely operating within Dacorum. This has severely impacted the livelihood of Dacorum drivers hence there are falling number of drivers as they are forced to look for employment/jobs elsewhere to cover their living expenses. The knowledge test only maintains a good standard of drivers within Dacorum, and I feel the knowledge test under no circumstances be abolished or made easier. This initiative will only negatively impact the taxi trade in Dacorum, by allowing incompetent drivers to operate on the roads.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

3. I feel the current Standard on diesel vehicles is more than sufficient to protect the environment also with the intervention of hydrogen powered cars in the future will outstrip electric vehicles and would be a lot more practical and before you enforce drivers to change over to electric vehicles I think it's important you should consider the placement of charging port on the Taxi ranks as at the moment it is my understanding that there are no places to charge your taxi on the rank

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Good idea

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

It should be made easier for people who have a license of other counties to get more drivers and ultimately revenue.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

We should go for clean and green energy.



**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I believe an extended period should be granted for this

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I understand with the technology available, private hire bookings are routed on apps automatically. With regards to removing the test altogether, I believe this will create a problem of “too many drivers” As a Hackney carriage driver in Dacorum, the earnings are very low, the work is not there as it may have been in the past. Waiting in the ranks plying for hire, a fare on average arrives every 60 mins and sometimes longer! With the cross border issues of out of town licensed cars, ie Uttlesford, Three rivers, Hertsmere, Wolverhampton (whose licensing council office is 100 miles away from Davorum) the standards are dropping, the prices affected by low fixed fares! The department for transport is aware of concerns around out of area working! Manchester is having the “Wolverhampton problem”, this is now coming to the south and in Dacorum. This makes it hard for authorities to regulate control and ultimately the safety of the public, along with driver vetting and inconsistent service standards. This week the Department for Transport (DfT) has acknowledged the concerns surrounding PHV licensing. A spokesperson indicated that the DfT is considering ways to support local authorities in addressing the challenges posed by cross-border hiring.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Dacorum PHV and HV are all euro 6 by now and many are Hybrid/electric too , myself like many could not afford to purchase one.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Should not be any

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Test should be shorter for private and Hackney As most jobs are sat nsv

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Give extra time for electric All vehicles should be euro 6

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**From:**

**Sent:** 02 September 2024 12:27

**To:** Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@dacorum.gov.uk>; Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Proposed changes to Dacorum Borough Council Taxi Licensing Policy

Good morning,

Thank you for your email dated on 6 August 2024. We have discussed your proposed points with colleagues and the majority of drivers in our trade are not happy with point 3 of your proposal - demolishing the knowledge test for private hire and shortening the written test for Hackney applicants.

We feel demolishing the test will result in

- loss of earnings for current Dacorum taxi drivers.
- It will generate confusion for drivers who are not familiar with Dacorum (as there are many new estates and in many areas of Dacorum there is no satellite signals for them to follow satnav routes).

Kind regards

**From:**

**Sent:** 03 September 2024 12:51

**To:** Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>; Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Fw: Proposed changes to Dacorum Borough Council Taxi Licensing Policy

Good morning,

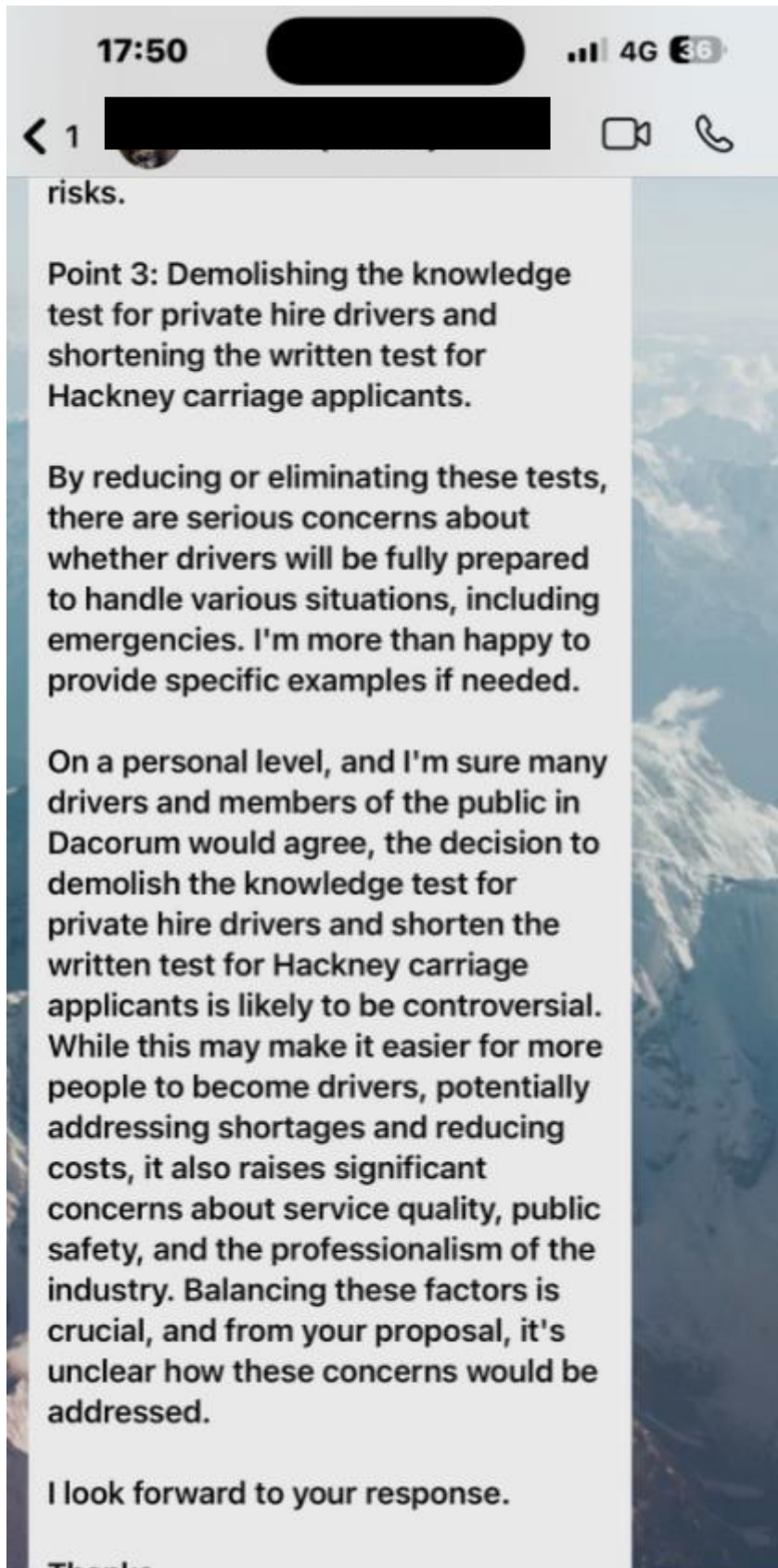
Thank you for your email dated 6th August 2024. I have discussed your proposed changes with many of my colleagues, and the majority of us drivers licensed by Dacorum feel that the third point creates significant risks.

Point 3: Demolishing the knowledge test for private hire drivers and shortening the written test for Hackney carriage applicants.

By reducing or eliminating these tests, there are serious concerns about whether drivers will be fully prepared to handle various situations, including emergencies. I'm more than happy to provide specific examples if needed.

On a personal level, and I'm sure many drivers and members of the public in Dacorum would agree, the decision to demolish the knowledge test for private hire drivers and shorten the written test for Hackney carriage applicants is likely to be controversial. While this may make it easier for more people to become drivers, potentially addressing shortages and reducing costs, it also raises significant concerns about service quality, public safety, and the professionalism of the industry. Balancing these factors is crucial, and from your proposal, it's unclear how these concerns would be addressed.

I look forward to your response.



**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Four weeks

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Should keep knowledge test same Uber and bolt they don't know school pubs and they always ask from us

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Should keep euro six until 2035 and hibrid dame

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

It should be given 0

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

We are living in hemel for over 10 years, working private hire in another council, if test is made easy we can also switch over to hemel hempstead council contributing revenue. As we are already working in hemel with an operator. One of the objections from hemel drivers is that they will loose their business if other drivers will get hemel license easily is not acceptable because a large number of uber and drivers from other councils already working with hemel Hempstead operators.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

No objection.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Make easy

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Make easy

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Make easy

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Grace period for expiring licences would be a good thing especially for those are unsure if they want to renew their existing licence.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Yes the test should definitely be made more easy. Lots of us taxi drivers are forced to get licences from other councils as they offer more easy tests compared to dacorum.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

All vehicles should be euro 6 compliant.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Need to be more lenient and take into factor mitigating circumstances such as ill health, family problems and bereavements.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

The knowledge tests seems very difficult, i think it should be made a bit easier.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

A good plan but some leniency should be given in order for all drivers to be compliant. This should be staggered to enable all drivers to purchase/lease vehicles that meet the proposed criteria.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Grace period for expiring license would be a good thing especially for those are unsure if they want to renew their existing license

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Yes the test should definitely be made more easy

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

All vehicle should be euro 6

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Grace period for expiring licences is very good idea, as it gives the licence holder bit of time if they want to renew their existing licence.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

It is very good idea, as lots of drivers are getting licensed by other councils because it is easy at other councils. Why are other councils benefitting from this and not dacorum. No Brainer to make it easy so we can have more dacorum licenced drivers.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Totally agree, as we have to look after the environment.

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**From:**

**Sent:** 05 September 2024 22:43

**To:** Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@dacorum.gov.uk>; Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Changes to knowledge test

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern relating to the knowledge test being scrapped for private hire drivers.

I believe it will have a very negative impact on all drivers that are working due to an increase in the number of new drivers coming in. There will simply not be enough work for drivers to earn a liveable wage. The taxi trade over the last few years has been impacted by COVID, cost of living and the growth of Uber. On top of that the new drivers will not be aware of the safety procedures and what to do in the case of emergency.

I hope you understand my concerns.

Kind regards,

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I believe they should be made easier and simpler as it would be more beneficial for our Hemel drivers to gain a Dacorum taxi licence.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I believe they should be changed a bit later to allow time for drivers to get the vehicles. The euro 6 policy would be best for drivers as it will be easier and more efficient for vehicles.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

They are reasonable by the council

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I believe they should be made easier and simpler as it would be more beneficial for out Hemel drivers to gain a Dacorum taxi licence.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I believe they should be changed a bit later to allow time for drivers to get the vehicles. The euro 6 policy would be best for drivers as it will be easier and more efficient for vehicles.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Please made easy for all local community

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Made easy for all driver because many other council plated car are running in decorum.drivers live in decorum Hemel Hempstead and pay for badges and plates and MOT to Other councils

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Please allow to drivers They bring any low emissions vehicles like hybrids cars

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Should be 14 days

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

It will make travel safer and the licensing team will have more control the current users of other platforms or councils can work with companies that are licensed by DBC and have additional revenue

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

All vehicles euro 6 and hybrid should be licensed until 2035

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

3 years good

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Definitely test is the best way

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

At least Euro 6

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

It's good

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

The test should be made simpler like other councils . Other councils tests are with no English test and also basic knowledge test i feel like dacourm has made it harder to get a licence compared to other councils . This way dacourm is loosing out on money as people are applying in other councils . The test should be made simpler.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

It goods as it helps with the air pollution .

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

My thoughts on this is i agree with the policy that is in place now.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

In my opinion i disagree i dont think you should remove the knowledge test but rather then removing the test you can make abit easier i feel whoever applies for taxi should have knowlege about the areas they are working in.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree with these changes .

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Grace periods can be beneficial as they provide individuals with a certain amount of time after the expiration date to renew their licences without having to face immediate consequences.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Knowledge tests should be made easier for one aspect and removed for private hire as it will be more beneficial for drivers to join DBC. If tests are removed more and more drivers will join DBC making for revenue for Dacorum because since after COVID a lot of drivers from have made other taxi licences like Uttlesford and Wolverhampton due to the easy process which means these councils will be making revenue off people from Hemel who cannot obtain a Dacorum taxi licence. Maps in the test should also be removed as most to all drivers use navigation. These days which are easy and reliable to use so there won't be any issue for any drivers. If tests are removed/made easier more and more drivers will get a Dacorum taxi licence contributing to more revenue for the council. And finally the English test should be made easier also as everyone can communicate and understand English for necessary. Presently, the test is quite complicated.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

It's highly important to consider the environmental impact of vehicle emissions however some drivers are not always in the position to get a highly priced car straight away, so these rules should be a bit softened for drivers to allow them time to get the vehicle with correct emissions.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

It needs to be more suitable for taxi drivers

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

No

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

It should be more tailored for taxi drivers

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Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

**1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:**

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

**2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test:**

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue.

For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

**3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:**

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely,

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Hi it should be minimum one month

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department Dacorum Borough Council Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points: 1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry: I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations. 2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test: I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures. 3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles: The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline. Thank you for considering my views. Yours sincerely,

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I mentioned this point above number 2

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I believe they should be a grace period. The consequences for a Driver overlook in the renewal of their license due to circumstances beyond their control could be quite devastating. I think the grace period just enables Driver in Exceptional circumstances. (I.e. illness, family bereavement) . To renew their expired license

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I feel the current Standard on diesel vehicles is more than sufficient to protect the environment also with the intervention of hydrogen powered cars in the future Will outstrip electric vehicles and would be way more practical and before you enforce drivers to change over to electric vehicles I think it's important you should consider the placement of charging port on the Taxi ranks as at the moment it is my understanding that there are no places to charge your taxi on the rank. The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline

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**From:**

**Sent:** 12 September 2024 18:59

**To:** Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Taxi consultation

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test:

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue.

For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**From:**

**Sent:** 13 September 2024 07:16

**To:** Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:**

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department

Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

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For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

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The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely,

**From:**

**Sent:** 13 September 2024 09:47

**To:** Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department

Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

**1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:**

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

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**3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:**

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I believe they should be a grace period. The consequences for a Driver overlook in the renewal of their license due to circumstances beyond their control could be quite devastating. I think the grace period just enables Driver in Exceptional circumstances. (I.e. illness, family bereavement) . To renew their expired license

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I feel the current Standard on diesel vehicles is more than sufficient to protect the environment also with the intervention of hydrogen powered cars in the future Will outstrip electric vehicles and would be way more practical and before you enforce drivers to change over to electric vehicles I think it's important you should consider the placement of charging port on the Taxi ranks as at the moment it is my understanding that there are no places to charge your taxi on the rank. The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

From:  
Sent: 13 September 2024 11:09  
To: Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>  
Subject: Survey

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department

Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am responding to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. My views on the following points:

1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:-

I request a 28-day grace period should be given to the following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the drivers/proprietor's control, such as sick, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test:

I strongly believe that the current knowledge test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber, Bolt and other boroughs the industry is already very saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly recommend the council to retain the current testing procedures.

3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I believe they should be a grace period. The consequences for a Driver overlook in the renewal of their license due to circumstances beyond their control could be quite devastating. I think the grace period just enables Driver in Exceptional circumstances. (I.e. illness, family bereavement) . To renew their expired license

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

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**From:**

**Sent:** 13 September 2024 11:32

**To:** Taxi Licensing Team <taxi.licensing.team@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Taxi Issues

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department Dacorum Borough Council Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points: 1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry: I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations. 2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test: I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures. 3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles: The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline. Thank you for considering my views. Yours sincerely,



**From:**

**Sent:** 13 September 2024 12:23

**To:** Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Taxi licensing issues

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department

Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

**1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:**

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

**2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test:**

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue.

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**3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:**

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**From:**

**Sent:** 13 September 2024 19:30

**To:** Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Taxi Licensing

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

**1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:**

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

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The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**From:**

**Sent:** 13 September 2024 21:22

**To:** Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:**

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

**1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:**

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

**2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test:**

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue.

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**3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:**

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

From: Sent: 14 September 2024 00:11  
To: Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>  
Subject: XD335

Hi dear sir/Madam  
Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

**1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:**

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

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**3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:**

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**From:**  
**Sent:** 14 September 2024 10:31  
**To:** Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to taxi licencing policy

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

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3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I still think they should be a grace period of 12 months.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

N/A

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

In March 2017 this was addressed by the councilors stating clearly that the knowledge test should stay as it is and not be made easier. Before dacorum borough council go any further, (there needs to be a survey of how many taxis to the population). Asking for more taxis in the decorum borough area where 99% of taxi drivers are earning below the minimum wage which is put in a strain on the government by handing out tax payers money which I find unacceptable. For example a hackney taxi driver on the taxi rank getting one job every hour average earnings £60 a day to say you need more taxis is absolutely bizarre. I think it's very important that the people who make these decisions need to have an understanding of doing the job. Decorum area is flooded with unlicensed taxi drivers Uber and bolts just for example our applying for hire outside the greater London area which is breaking the law because passengers getting into the vehicle are not insured, Having more taxis in the area would only benefit the quorum borough council with the knowledge test being easier it would increase their revenue? This would also benefit large companies in the decorum area they would have more drivers which would increase their revenue regardless of what the taxi drivers are earning so effectively it's a small man or woman who are losing out. I feel that the dacorum borough council have not done enough to protect the livelihoods of taxi drivers.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Agreed.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Agreed.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Disagree. The current Government legislation states no new petrol or diesel vehicles will be manufactured or sold after 2035. The proposals in this document are consequently at odds with Government policy by setting stricter restrictions, i.e. "No new vehicles will be licensed and no existing vehicle licences will be renewed after 2035 if they are petrol/diesel." This is patently wrong and open to challenge should the policy be amended in this way. It should reflect Govt. policy.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No grace periods should be allowed unless for extreme reasons whereby evidence can be produced.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Should still have knowledge tests for all badge types as it allows more people to apply for a badge that are not from Dacorum.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Changes to emissions policy will help current drivers with their vehicles as some may not be in position to afford a car to meet the age restriction but a car with the euro 6 status will be easier for them to come across if over 7 years old



**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Grace periods should remain as drivers may have extenuating circumstances.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Not in favour as there are already too many drivers and find it hard to make their living.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

In favour of this

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No , a professional should be responsible enough to be updated with the documents.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

As per law drivers are not allowed to talk unnecessarily to customers while they can talk easily the required information. Same wise maps these days are so advance that nobody needs map reading test. Both these tests should be made easy.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Yes, but the age of vehicle should be capped to 7 years max. as most councils are already restricted the vehicle age.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No grace period granted

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Should be made easy so that more and more people can pass and earn their living and help increase revenue for council

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Strongly suggest to restrict age of the vehicle to 5 years immediately and eventually electric cars.

### **What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department Dacorum Borough Council Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points: 1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry: I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations. 2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test: I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures. 3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles: The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline. Thank you for considering my views. Yours sincerely,

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### **Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department Dacorum Borough Council Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points: 1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry: I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations. 2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test: I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures. 3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles: The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the

**council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline. Thank you for considering my views. Yours sincerely,**

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department Dacorum Borough Council Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points: 1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry: I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations. 2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test: I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures. 3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles: The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline. Thank you for considering my views. Yours sincerely,

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Maps in every phone made the life easy while necessary discussion is not a problem for any person. Therefore, they both should be made easy so that maximum number of people can pass the test resulting in more jobs and ultimately more revenue for the council

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

For healthy atmosphere, it's important to introduce electric vehicles and in the meantime age of the vehicles should be made 5 to 7 for all taxis.

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Both tests be done in a way that everyone can pass and earn their living and in return contribute to increase council revenue.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

New car should only be taken for taxi to improve environment

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Don't think be given

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Please make maps and English tests easy. More drivers more income for council. More jobs opportunities.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

As like other councils life of vehicles be fixed 5 to 7 years.

---



**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Don't

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

English test and other tests be made easy.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

New cars better environment conditions

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I don't think it's good for a person doing a proper cab driver. No

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Every one can communicate routine discussion. Test should be easy enough for everyone to take up. Results are more jobs in Dacorum , more facilities means taxis for people and more revenue for council in return.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Environment friendly vehicles, new cars for meanwhile.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Yes

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Keep it same for Hackney but make it simple for private hire as job is booked by operator, they don't need high level. Maps test should be removed as navigation apps are enough.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Like other councils low mileage and new vehicles should only be allowed for taxis

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Yes

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I want both test easy and simple for more people to pass.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Environment friendly cars

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Yes

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Both tests be made easy which will result in more taxis drivers in the town available for people. Especially during schools time it's a big problem to get taxi.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Euro-6 cars should only be allowed

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Good idea

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Because of the new technology Drivers don't really need to take knowledge test

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Good idea

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

A shame for the drivers who claim themselves perfect and insist on keeping the licence requirement hard if he wants grace period. Absolutely not.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I believe the council make the road sign and motor way code test hard to ensure customers safety. Practical driving test should be made tougher. English or maps test should be as simple as possible. Navigation apps are enough while prebooked jobs need not mor than greeting for private hire drivers. Hackney drivers maybe tested every year for English language proficiency.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

New cars till electric vehicles introduced

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Not fair, should allow gracing period , at least one month. Someone could be away. Why would you think of introducing this. Totally unacceptable.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Yes. Knowledge test is important and should be applied to new drivers that want to join the council as a taxi driver.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

It's tough at the moment, no one has money to buy £30,000 cars.



**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No grace period allowed

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Tests be made easy which will give more people a chance, we suffer every morning for kids schools drop off. More taxi drivers will help solve this.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Good vehicle allowed only means less than five years old like Ubers

From:  
Sent: 16 September 2024 16:13  
To: Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>  
Subject: HD091

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CAUTION: This message was sent from outside of Dacorum BC. Please do not reply to, click links or open attachments UNLESS you recognise the source of this email and know the content is safe. Please report all suspicious emails.**

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

**1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:**

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

**2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test:**

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue.

For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

**3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:**

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

3 years

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

No test required

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

2 to 3 years

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

No test required

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Yes

**From:**

**Sent:** 16 September 2024 20:57

**To:** Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@dacorum.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Proposed changes to Dacorum Borough Council Taxi Licensing Policy

**\*\*\*DOES THIS EMAIL LOOK SUSPICIOUS? Remember to check the sender email address\*\*\***

CAUTION: This message was sent from outside of Dacorum BC. Please do not reply to, click links or open attachments UNLESS you recognise the source of this email and know the content is safe. Please report all suspicious emails.

Good evening,

I hope this message finds you well.

Thanks for your email and I am writing in response to the proposed changes regarding the removal of the written test for Private Hire applicants and the shortening of the written test for Hackney Carriage applicants. While I understand the desire to streamline processes and make it easier for applicants to enter the profession, I would like to respectfully present several reasons why eliminating or reducing the written knowledge test may not be in the best interest of the public, drivers, or the taxi industry as a whole.

First and foremost, the knowledge test is an essential part of ensuring that both Private Hire and Hackney Carriage drivers have a comprehensive understanding of local geography, customer service, and the laws governing their profession. Although many Private Hire journeys are pre-booked and involve pre-planned routes, unforeseen circumstances such as road closures, diversions, or sudden route changes still require drivers to have a strong grasp of the local area. Removing this requirement risks lowering the overall standard of drivers on the road, leading to poorer customer experiences and potentially damaging the reputation of the entire sector.

Moreover, a robust knowledge test ensures that drivers possess more than just basic navigational skills. It verifies that they are capable of delivering a high standard of customer service, which is crucial in a profession that requires close interaction with the public. By eliminating the written test, there is a risk of allowing drivers into the industry who lack essential knowledge and professionalism, ultimately leading to a decline in service quality.

Another major concern is the potential increase in drivers with only minimal knowledge of customer service or road safety. Without the written test, new drivers may enter the profession without fully understanding the expectations around professional behaviour, local laws, or even how to effectively communicate with passengers. This could lead to increased complaints and potentially compromise public safety. Customer service is a cornerstone of the taxi business, and by lowering the bar for entry, we risk creating a situation where service quality declines rapidly, further pushing customers away from traditional taxi services and towards companies like Uber, which already pose a significant competitive threat.

As you know, the traditional taxi industry is already struggling to compete with large ride-hailing companies like Uber, which offer convenient and low-cost alternatives to private hire and Hackney Carriage services. Introducing a license process without a proper knowledge test will further undermine the credibility of the industry and could be the final blow to many local taxi businesses that are already on the verge of collapse. Uber has already disrupted the market significantly, and

lowering standards for new drivers would only make it more difficult for traditional taxi operators to differentiate themselves and offer superior services.

In my opinion rather than eliminating the written test, I would propose that the Council looks at alternative ways to improve the standards of the taxi industry and help drivers meet modern customer expectations. For instance:

1. Mandatory courses on customer service could be introduced, ensuring that drivers know how to professionally interact with passengers, deal with complaints, and create positive experiences.

2. Rather than just a one time test, drivers could be required to periodically update their knowledge through short CPD modules, ensuring they stay up to date with changes in local laws, technology, and best practices.

3. Offering incentives or recognition to drivers who demonstrate exceptional service, safety, and local knowledge could help raise the bar across the industry without eliminating important requirements.

In conclusion, while I appreciate the Council's efforts to reduce barriers to entry, I believe that maintaining a written knowledge test is crucial for ensuring high standards of service, safety, and professionalism. Removing this requirement risks damaging the reputation of the taxi industry, reducing customer confidence, and leading to a decline in service quality all at a time when the industry is already under immense pressure from competitors.

Thank you for considering these points, and I would be happy to discuss these concerns further.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

With the removal of grace periods is not an issue but to take the knowledge test again for drivers not renewing in time is unnecessary and unfair. This will not only delay the applicant in getting back to work which would result in loss of earnings. The applicant could be the sole earner of the household therefore could cause them to fall into stress and financial difficulties. I agree where the licence has expired, the applicant cannot work until a renewal licence has been granted. This is sufficient for such circumstances.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I feel strongly that the knowledge test should remain in place for Private Hire drivers, reasons due to the impact of work for the current drivers. The demolish of the test would increase newer drivers coming into Dacorum and being unfamiliar of the area. For example, drivers whom are working in Dacorum that are licensed by other Licensing Authorities. Routes and knowledge test is vital especially where areas that have poor signals for the use of satellite navigation as well as mobile telephones. If drivers need to arrive at the pick up point and their satellite navigation does not have signal this would cause delays on journeys and poor customer services.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree with the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles.

From:  
Sent: 16 September 2024 16:11  
To: Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>  
Subject:

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Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points:

1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry:

I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test:

I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue.

For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles:

The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.



**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Ok

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Everyone should seat for knowledge test. Don't like councils idea.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Not a good idea. London is aiming 2035. Why Dacorum will have to do it by 2025. Dacorum should concentrate on controlling UBER drivers.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

It should be granted at least 30 days grace period

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Knowledge test is very important part of taxi trade to get awareness about places and local area we can't fully rely on navigation its boost confidence of driver and secure passengers safety and economical journey I

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I know the environment importance and pollution impacts on public health for long term policy I agree with low emissions policy but due to financial conditions and post Covid financial and social change living cost rises we need more financial stability to go for low emissions vehicles interm of time scale . Should give more time for policy implementation

---

From:  
Sent: 17 September 2024 10:55  
To: Taxi Mailbox <Taxi@dacorum.gov.uk>  
Subject:

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Department  
Dacorum Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

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The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline.

Thank you for considering my views.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I think there must be grace period for expiring licences some drivers needs to travel abroad in emergency for family reasons some one might be admitted in hospital when his licence expires so there must be grace periods.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

In my view knowledge test should be compulsory for everyone every driver should have knowledge of the area prior to becoming private hire or Hackney driver. Drivers shouldn't be solely relying on navigation to take them to destination.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I totally agree with central government's emission policy for taxis

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Should be kept to 28 days

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I don't agree with this should be a knowledge test

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I agree with euro 6 kept until year 2032

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

It is my respectful opinion that the Dacorum Borough Council should consider maintaining a grace period for expiring licenses. In certain instances, expiration dates may be inadvertently overlooked or delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. A grace period would provide individuals with an opportunity to rectify the situation without incurring immediate penalties.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I believe that licenses should be prioritised for local residents to ensure reasonably available work opportunities for the local community. Additionally, I fully support the council's proposal for a Private Hire knowledge test.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I respectfully believe that it may be premature to implement the proposed changes at this time. Many drivers are already experiencing financial difficulties and time constraints due to the need to recharge their vehicles before accepting additional bookings. Additionally, the limited range of electric vehicles is causing drivers to miss out on long-distance journey opportunities, as customers are hesitant to stop for charging during their trips. Until electric vehicles can provide sufficient mileage to efficiently complete full journeys, it may be advisable to reconsider the enforcement of stricter emissions policies.

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No comment

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Hackney Carriage test needs to remain robust and should not be made easier. The high standard of entry needs to be maintained for safeguarding purposes and Dacorum public safety generally. Thank You.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

No comment

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

3 years

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I do think if you make it easier these drivers working here within dacorum with different council plates will switch with Dacorum

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

I think that's good

---



**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Although I agree with the general idea, as to many drivers no doubt leave it to the last minute to apply I wonder what the consequence would be if there was a long delay at DBS. Perhaps it would be better to insist the DBS check is paid yearly and therefore rule out any possible delays.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

You should continue with the knowledge test for private hire drivers as customer's quite often require a cab straight away and therefore the driver would have to delay the pickup while he works out the route to the customer and then the route to the customer's destination IF he didn't have the knowledge already.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Much better to allow a workable infrastructure to be implemented to make it viable. Although you could theoretically get a hybrid and not charge it, as some London Black Cabs were doing, when the cost for charging the batteries was more expensive than just using diesel. This completely undermines your good intention. Also there is no mention of Hydrogen cars which may well be the way we all end up going.

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No grace period given

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

At present dozens of Dacorum residents are working in other councils as private hire drivers. Just because of complicated licensing procedures. If the test is made easy those drivers will definitely come back to work here and will contribute to revenue.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Agreed with new and electric vehicles policy of council

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Due dates should be honoured, no grace period

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Knowledge and maps tests are not required instead knowledge about customer service, road safety, highway codes and conditions should be more strict. Similarly practical driving test should also be considered further hard.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Vehicle less five years old as like other councils be allowed only

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I totally disagree with grace period, council like Dacorum should have zero tolerance for maintaining the standards.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Tests should be as simple as possible because at the moment most of new youngsters are going to other councils in search of jobs as private hire drivers. I met with a number of such drivers and they mentioned a very serious issue regarding the complain of Dacorum drivers a couple of years ago that if the test made easy more and more drivers would get the licence and they will be deprived of their business. It is very unfair on their part. Not only that but it's misleading to council as well rather it's a kind of pressurising. If the new drivers get a chance, they will not only be helpful to serve the local community but will also result increasing the income of the council as well.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

New cars

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

No extension

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Easier tests, more local drivers means better and faster service to community especially during rush hours and ultimately more money in the council's budget.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

New cars

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

I don't think grace period be extended

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I am favour of easy test because it will give more people a job.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

No written off cars , new cars till electric cars to provide quality service to customers.

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

In relation to there being no grace period, I find that unreasonable, unfair & I oppose this change as if a licensed driver's DBS does not return in time before the expiry of the licence, that is often beyond the control of the driver etc. I think there needs to be exemptions allowed for such matters of if for other good reasons such as ill health, a bereavement where a driver might be abroad because of the death of a close relative etc.

---

**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

I have some concern about the use of sat navs being used as a measure of the shortest routes. When it comes to sat navs & the shortest routes in general, they are often take longer in time to complete in time because they tend to be various if not multiple twists and turn routes. For example, motorways are longer in miles than country routes but motorways without traffic will be quicker to complete a journey. I once tested this when visiting a sibling who lives in Plymouth, the country "shortest route" was quite a lot of miles shorter but it took 45 minutes longer to complete the journey than the motorway route on the way back! Also there could be obscure routes sat navs or short routes are in general & when drivers take these routes, passengers often accuse the driver of taking a longer route & get quite exercised. I do think there needs to be new rules allowing some room for manoeuvre on this or flexibility & it should not be a hard & fast rule that it must be the shortest route that is taken. At least allow drivers to give customers the choice or not rebuke them if the shortest route is likely to result in the passenger/customer assumes a longer route is being taken. I have many years experience in the trade, over 20 years & its nearly always the case, the customer assumes the shortest route is longer etc.

---

**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

Considering the massive increases in the cost of running even private cars, I do oppose the move to require drivers to give up petrol or diesel cars. Councils should be in mind the reality that most drivers are likely to be parked up for much of their shift & that the average fare they get tends to be 1 an hour so the emissions councils assume drivers release is nowhere near as high as they think.

---

**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Need to be sometime scale

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Should be written test

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

All should be euro 6 vehicle

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Need more time in between expiring for renewals.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

Should require a test and keep the same format you currently have for knowledge test. Cross border hire should be stopped for taxi immediately they have taken plates from other councils working in Hemel Hempstead. Furthermore, Uber has taken over a lot in Hemel Hempstead and we don't have enough earning to pay our personal expenses.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

You should still keep Euro 6 engines and hybrids. This is due to not much work out there in order to be able to purchase new vehicles.

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**What are your thoughts on grace periods for expiring licences?**

Head of DBC Taxi Licensing Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing in response to your online survey regarding Taxi licensing issues. I would like to share my views on the following points: 1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry: I believe a 28-day grace period should be granted following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would accommodate exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or being away on holiday. Such a provision would be beneficial in these unforeseen situations.

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**Do you have any views on the way we propose to run Knowledge tests for applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences?**

2. Hackney and Private Hire Knowledge Test: I strongly believe that the current test for Hackney and Private Hire drivers should remain unchanged. There are already sufficient drivers in Dacorum, and the knowledge test ensures a high standard of service from DBC Hackney and PH drivers. With competition from services like Uber and Bolt, the industry is already saturated. It seems that the council, rather than assessing the actual need for change through a feasibility study, is primarily interested in revenue. For example, Transport for London (TfL), one of the largest regulatory licensing authorities, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, such as the English speaking and listening test and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their licensing process has become more rigorous, not easier. I strongly urge the council to retain the current testing procedures.

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**What are your thoughts on the proposals to change the emissions policy for licensed vehicles?**

3. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles: The government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles is a positive initiative, provided that the infrastructure is in place to support this shift. I also believe that the council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase new fully electric vehicles, helping them meet this important deadline. Thank you for considering my views. Yours sincerely,

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Petition against changes to licensing policy/ Online consultation

Dacorum Borough Council  
Head of Taxi Licensing Department  
15th September 2024



Dear Sir/Madam,

We, the Dacorum Hackney & Private Hire Taxi Association, have gathered a petition in the hope that the Licensing Department will take into account the concerns we have raised and address them at the earliest opportunity. We also wish to point out that, on recent occasions, the new Licensing management has failed to engage with the Association, leaving trade drivers feeling neglected and disregarded.

The recent knowledge test proposals suggest that the council's priority may be revenue generation rather than the wellbeing of the trade and its drivers. We, as trade drivers, strongly oppose the proposed changes to abolish the Private Hire knowledge test and simplify the Hackney Carriage test.

Online Consultation Feedback

**1. Grace Period for Hackney Licence Expiry**

We propose a 28-day grace period following the expiry of a Hackney licence. This would account for exceptional circumstances beyond the proprietor's control, such as illness, family bereavement, or holidays. Implementing this would prevent unnecessary disruptions in unforeseen situations.

**2. Communication via Email**

While we support the requirement that all drivers be contacted via email, it is essential that the council ensures it has updated email addresses for all drivers.

Failure to do so may lead to missed communications and non-compliance with new regulations.

### **3. Knowledge Test**

We strongly oppose the proposed termination of the Private Hire test and the simplification of the Hackney Carriage test.

#### **Current Hackney Carriage Knowledge Test:**

- Section A: 43 questions, with a pass mark of 33.
- Section B: Applicants must describe the shortest route between two points, naming all streets along the way.
- Section C: 20 questions on byelaws, with a pass mark of 15.

#### **Proposed Hackney Carriage Knowledge Test:**

- 12 multiple-choice questions, with a pass mark of 10.

#### **Current Private Hire Knowledge Test:**

- Section A: 15 questions focused on Hemel Hempstead.
- Section B: Applicants must describe the shortest route between two named roads, listing all streets along the way.
- Section C: 20 questions on byelaws, with a pass mark of 15.

#### **Proposed Private Hire Knowledge Test:**

- Abolish the test entirely.

As per the licensing officer's recommendations, private hire drivers may research destinations before a journey or use a Sat Nav. However, we disagree with this, as Sat Navs do not always provide the shortest route by distance. We believe it is in the public's best interest for drivers to have a strong knowledge of the area in which they are licensed. Removing this requirement undermines a core responsibility of taxi drivers—knowing their routes and locations—which helps ensure public confidence.

Moreover, this change could harm the trade by over saturating the market with new drivers. The licensing officer's report failed to consider the current numbers of drivers, with approximately 190 Hackney and 172 Private Hire drivers already in operation, alongside Uber, Bolt, and drivers from nearby areas such as Three Rivers, Aylesbury, and Huddersfield, which add around 100 out-of-borough drivers. We see no justification for increasing the number of drivers. Has the council conducted a feasibility study to determine genuine demand, or is this simply an effort to boost revenue?

For comparison, Transport for London (TFL), one of the largest regulatory bodies, introduced more stringent measures in 2021, including English language proficiency tests and the Safety, Equality, and Regulatory Understanding (SERU) assessment. Their process has become more rigorous, not less. As well as this, numerous other councils are retaining their current test procedures therefore we urge the council to maintain the current testing standards to uphold service quality.

The Department for Transport, which oversees Hackney Carriage and Private Hire legislation, provided best practices for local licensing authorities in November 2023. This includes recommendations from circulars 2/92 and 13/92, advising local authorities to adopt their own guidelines on the relevance of convictions when considering Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle applications.

Notably, a similar proposal to remove the test was brought before the Licensing Committee on 28th March 2017. At that time, we retained a specialist licensing barrister, Mr. Stuart Jessop, to defend the trade, and successfully maintained the knowledge test. The committee agreed that it was essential to uphold high standards of local knowledge. If this new proposal proceeds, we are prepared to pursue legal action once again.

#### **4. Transition to Fully Electric Vehicles**

We support the government's 2035 deadline for transitioning to fully electric vehicles, provided the necessary infrastructure is in place. We also believe the

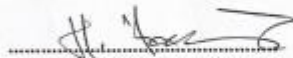
council should offer subsidies to help drivers purchase electric vehicles and meet this deadline without facing undue financial hardship.

We hope the council will seriously consider our concerns and look forward to a productive dialogue with the Licensing Department.

Yours faithfully,

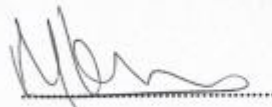
Raja Hafeez Iqbal

Chairman, Dacorum Hackney & Private Hire Taxi Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mansha Khan', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Mansha Khan

Vice Chairman, Dacorum Hackney & Private Hire Taxi Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raja Hafeez Iqbal', written over a horizontal dotted line.



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### Petition against Dacorum Taxi licensing policies

- 1. Ending grace periods for licenses that have expired
- 2. Removal of the written knowledge test for private hire applicants
- 3. Shortening of written test for Hackney applicants



Dacorum  
Hackney & Private Hire  
Association

DATE: 28/08/2024

	Name	Address	Telephone	Badge Number	Signature
1	NASAM - UL - HASSAN			XO 334	<i>Nasam</i>
2	MUHAMMAD WAHEED . A. BHATTI			HD 341	<i>M. Waheed</i>
3	Babar Ali			PD 222	<i>Babar Ali</i>
4	Amar Wasim			XO 335	<i>Amar</i>
5	ANSAR Khan			PD 210	<i>Ansar Khan</i>
6	WAHID <i>Wahid</i>			PD 160	<i>Wahid</i>
7	M. SOHAB			XO 155	<i>Sohab</i>
8	G. JILANI			XO 061	<i>G. Jilani</i>
9	G. MUSTAFA			PD 201	<i>G. Mustafa</i>
10	S. KHAN			PD 357	<i>S. Khan</i>
11	N. AZHAR			HD 158	<i>N. Azhar</i>
12	M. RASHID			PD 545	<i>M. Rashid</i>
13	S. KHAN			XO 227	<i>S. Khan</i>
14	K. LINGSWERAN			XO 275	<i>K. Lingsweran</i>
15	KHIZIR HAKYAT			HD 125	<i>Khizat</i>





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Dacorum  
Hackney & Private Hire  
Association

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	Name	Address	Telephone	Badge Number	Signature
17	Shakeel Ahmed			HD 077	[Signature]
18	FAYYAL			HD 115	[Signature]
19	Ghulam Rasool			4 HD330	[Signature]
20	SAGHR Hussain			HD 229	[Signature]
21	M SHAKEEL			6 XD 351	[Signature]
22	A. ALI			4 XD 326	[Signature]
23	SPIEDAS ALI KHAN			155 XD 366	[Signature]
24	M. HANIF			26 HD 100	M. Hanif
25	Abbar Khan			47 HD44	Abbar Khan
26	RARRY WILLIAMS			10 HD104	[Signature]
27	JAVED SADIQ			7 HD121	[Signature]
28	YAHIA AROUQUE			54 HD 011	[Signature]
29	Gulam Azam			78 HD 374	[Signature]
30	M. TAJAN			3	[Signature]

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### Petition against Dacorum Tax licensing policies

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Dacorum  
Hackney & Private Hire  
Association

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	Name	Address	Telephone	Badge Number	Signature
31	RAJA NAEEM RAFA	3		11 252	
32	YOUSUF ALI	3		533 353	
33	HABEEB UAS	5		322	
34	Shahid/Imad	6		7 810	
35	J. Usman			123 250	
36	SATTED KHAN	2		70 11022	
37	AFFAQ AHMED	R		5 XD 328	Affaq Ahmed
38	G. KHAN	4. L		17 XD 230	
39	MOHAMMED MATTOOF KHAN	7		5 HD 091	
40	ASHRAF MUHAMMAD	6		2 HD 186	
41	SAJID KHAN	S		5 HD 185	
42	TARIB MAHMOOD	6		HD 136	
43	Ghazanfar	3		124 HP 300	
44	RAJA S. AHMED	14		HD 246	
45	M. J. JAMES	9		HD 243	
46	RASHEED KHAN	S		HD 305	

## Petition against Dacorum Taxi licensing policies

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Dacorum  
Hackney & Private Hire  
Association

DATE: 28/08/2024

	Name	Address	Telephone	Badge Number	Signature
47	IJAZ			56 HD278	[Signature]
48	QADEER			3 HD 262	[Signature]
49	KHIZAR			7 HD 097	[Signature]
50	M. DAUD KHAN			5 HD 230	[Signature]
51	ABU SHAHID			6 HD 380	[Signature]
52	NAZARAT KHAN			7 HD 373	[Signature]
53	MUHAMMAD RAISICHA			1 HD 268	[Signature]
54	MANISHA KHAN			2 HD 266	[Signature]
55	FRAZAN FRAZ			HD 41	[Signature]
56	M. AHSAN			01 HD 230	[Signature]
57	M. KHAN			1 HD 121	[Signature]
58	SAFER AHMED			113	[Signature]
59	M. IJAZ			5 HD 087	[Signature]
60	wadood			HD 201	[Signature]
61	TARIQ MEHMOOD			XD 327	[Signature]



7

### Petition against Dacorum Taxi licensing policies

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Hackney & Private Hire  
Association

DATE: 28/08/2024

	Name	Address	Telephone	Badge Number	Signature
71	TABREZ KHAN			HV 113	T. Khan
72	RAJA HAFEZ IQBAL			XD 382	[Signature]
73	NASAR AHMED			PD 070	N. Ahmed
74	NAVEEL AHMED			PD 338	N. Ahmed
75	ASTAD KHAN			HD96	Astid Khan
76	ZAFAR HUSSAIN			HD32	Zafar Hussain
77	ABDULLA AL MAMUNKHANI			HD61	[Signature]
78	Penelope			HD20	Penelope
79	M.A.M. Khan			PD 195	[Signature]
80	A. MAHMOOD			PD 230	A. Mahmood
81	M.A. Hamid			PD 069	M.A. Hamid
82	KHASSAN			092	[Signature]
83	M. J. James			HD 070	M. J. James
84	SABBAH LATIF			PD 342	Sabbah Latif





9

### Petition against Dacorum Taxi licensing policies

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	Name	Address	Telephone	Badge Number	Signature
75	SAGIB BOTT			PD 351	<i>Sagib Bott</i>
96	Saeed Butt			XD 350	<i>Saeed Butt</i>
97	IMRAN UL HAQ			XD 344	<i>Imran</i>
98	Muhammad Janzeb			PD 355	<i>MJ</i>
99	Mohammad Shahzad			XD 110	<i>Shahzad</i>
100	M			PD 347	<i>M</i>
101	Auzair ALI			PD 356	<i>Ali</i>
102	ALI ASGHAR			PD 198B	<i>Ali</i>
103	JABAL KHAN			PD 171	<i>J Khan</i>
104	IMM ALI			PD 353	<i>Imm Ali</i>
105	Muhammad Ahmed			XD 380	<i>Muhammad Ahmed</i>









