

Subject: Application by Peter James Durkin to be recognised by the Committee as a representative of taxi drivers. **Status:** For Publication.

Report to: Licensing Committee **Date:** 17th October 2006

Section Head: Head of Legal & Democratic Services **Report Author:** Susan Chadwick

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council **Key Decision:** No

APPLICANT: PETER JAMES DURKIN.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the request by a Peter James Durkin, a licensed Hackney carriage driver with Rossendale Borough Council be recognised by this Committee to speak on behalf of licensed hackney and private hire drivers who are not affiliated to the two taxi associations currently recognised.
- 1.2 To request that Committee consider this application.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that the applicant and the Associations already recognised by the Committee be asked to provide documentary evidence identifying exactly who they purport to represent, the manner in which the officers are subject to re-election, minutes of meetings and any other documents or evidence that would enable the Committee to establish the appropriate persons to address the Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At present, there are 239 hackney carriage drivers and 10 private hire drivers licensed by this Authority and the Committee has in the past agreed to recognise Rossendale Taxi Association and Haslingden Taxi Association as representatives of the drivers and permitted them to address the Committee on behalf of the drivers.
- 3.2 However, since that time, there has been no evidence from the Associations as to their membership, meetings or election of officers. It is fair to say, however, that none has been asked for by the Committee.
- 3.3 The applicant, Peter James Durkin, who is a licensed hackney carriage driver with this Authority, says he has been selected to represent the owner drivers who are not affiliated to the two recognised Associations and wishes to be recognised by the Committee.

3.4 He has provided no supporting evidence of his assertion. However, in this respect he would appear to be no different than those already recognised by the Committee.

3.5 Members may feel it appropriate to defer the decision in order that all parties who purport to represent hackney and private hire drivers within the Borough may be given adequate time to provide the Committee with proof that they represent, in a democratic manner, a significant group of drivers.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1. It is fair and proper that the interests of hackney carriage and private hire drivers are represented at meetings and it is important to the Committee that they are able to hear the views expressed. However, it is equally important that the Committee are satisfied that those representatives have been democratically chosen and really do represent the views of drivers.

Contact Officer	
Name	Susan Chadwick
Position	Licensing Manager
Service / Team	Licensing Unit
Telephone	01706 238648
Email address	susan.chadwick@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Appendices	
Document	Place of Inspection
Letter from Peter James Durkin	Appendix A

Pete's Cabs

Mr Peter James Durkin
Parrock Farm
Todmorden Road
Bacup
OL13 9UF
Tel No 01706 872434



To whom it may concern,

I Mr Peter James Durkin a licensed Hackney Carraige Driver in the Borough of Rossendale, write to inform you that i have been selected to represent the owner drivers who are not afiliated to the two recognised taxi associations within Rossendale.

I believe i have to write and inform you and that my request will have to be put to the Licensing Commitee, which is due to sit on the 29th August 2006.

I will if you require me to attend that meeting or all future meetings.

I await in anticipation of a reply to my request.

Yours faithfully

P J Durkin