

Following a joint association meeting held 27th October 2010, it has been voted and carried that the current two associations merge into one; this now consists of two joint chair persons, David Pawlaszek-Lawrie and Glen Bulcock, a secretary, Lia Back and four committee members, one from each area of the valley.

Following to the reading of the remaining three consultation documents and following the advice of the nominated representatives, the following response has been agreed upon.

Taxi trades response to three current consultation documents,

It would appear that these documents have been poorly written, poorly presented, and hastily released.

The opinions and suggestions raised by the trade at liaison, on the two parts which the group have seen, have been completely ignored, as there is no reference to them what-so-ever, including the suggested that the many items contained within, be presented to the committee in sections, in an effort to make the whole document more presentable, therefore these documents include decisions on the assumption that the committee will agree to all parts prior to consultation.

As a result of which, the trade will now have to make these observations to committee directly, this will make the committee meeting much lengthier than it would otherwise have had to be.

We clearly see many references to how the licensing unit intends to punish and penalise the trade, but no reference anywhere as to how the licensing unit are going to assist and defend the trade.

It would appear that the licensing unit has not yet learnt that there are no members of the trade that work FOR the licensing unit or for the council, we merely pay for the licenses to be issued and the relevant checks to be carried out.

As for the time-keeping, cleanliness, pricing and dress code of the trade, we feel that this is none of the licensing units concern, we are answerable to our customers, their repeated use of our service or lack of interest, is our praise or punishment.

Any further representations of the trade in relation to these documents will now be made directly to the licensing committee as it has been made clear by their release, that liaison on these matters has been completed.

We expect this to be taken as 250 responses to the consultation documents as representing a response from each member of the newly amalgamated association.

Yours sincerely

D.Pawlaszek-lawrie
Glen Bulcock

Joint chairmen. RTA

From: Doug Spencer

Subject: Draft Taxi Policy

One or two comments.

Penalty Points.

Excellent idea however:

Blowing exhausts and defective washers/ wipers are serious vehicle defects and should attract at least 8 points.

Failure to produce documents, should attract 20 points

Failure to carry an approved fire extinguisher (1kg ABC powder or 2 litre AFFF) - 8 points

Failure to maintain the fire extinguisher in accordance with BS and failure to have it indelibly marked with the vehicle registration number - 5 points

Obstructing or causing obstruction to the free flow of traffic – 8 points

NOTE 12 within the proposal. In the interest of fairness and equality of justice, licensees SHOULD have the option to ask the licensing sub-committee about whether a license should be revoked or not. Remember you are talking about someone's income.

The Rossendale Test / General Vehicle Requirements:

All doors able to be opened from both inside and outside of the vehicle unless carrying unaccompanied children

No flammable liquids to be carried anywhere within the vehicle. Unless the property of a passenger and then only to be carried in the boot space.

A set of replacement bulbs and the tools required to change any defective bulb(s) should be carried within the vehicle

Nothing that could cause injury to a passenger or other person (e.g. baseball bats, spanners, hammers, knives etc.) to be carried within the vehicle except in the boot.

Driver requirements:

No license issued to any person under the age of 25yrs at time the license is issued.

No license issued to any person who has not held a full UK driving license for a period of at least three years.
Within 3 months of a taxi driver's license being issued, a driver should undertake a Advanced Driver course and test
(test retaken every 6 years or on re-issue of a revoked license.
Smoking in a taxi is ILLEGAL

General Notes:

Taxi drivers' should be allowed to demand payment before taking a fare IF they feel it necessary (e.g. Drunks picked up from a night club)
Drivers' must NOT tout or ask for tips.

Regards,

Doug Spencer