

Sims Michael

From:
Sent: 18 August 2017 15:42
To: Sims Michael
Subject: Emissions and MOT Clarification

Dear Mick,

Thank you for recent email regarding emissions and certificate of compliance for the council, however, there seems to be some confusion.

Emissions and renewal of licence

After reading the news letter, it has come to my attention that the FROM 1st Jan 2019, **all renewals** will only be issued a licence if they have Euro 6 diesel or Euro 4 Petrol cars.

Please can you confirm whether this is the same for all current licensed vehicles ?.

For example; If a PHV licence holder has a 2012 PHV (Private Hire Vehicle) that is currently licensed and should be licensed till 2021 (9 years); Will they be asked to purchase a new Euro 6 diesel/Euro 4 petrol at time of renewal after 1st Jan 2019 ?

I believe in our meeting this same questions was addressed and you confirmed that all current licensed vehicles would be allowed to be driven until 9 years old provided they had a certificate of compliance.

Many thanks

Aftab Khan
Vice Chairperson (SPHDA)

Mick Sims
Public Protection Services
Slough Borough Council
St Martin's Place
51 Bath Road
Slough, Berkshire
SL1 3UF

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Slough Taxi Federation, I refer to your letter dated 11th July 2017 regarding SBC's efforts to improve air quality in Slough.

I am grateful for your inclusive approach in consulting with taxi operators in Slough and can confirm that not only do we recognise the importance of improving air quality in Slough but we are also keen to play an active role in doing so.

With reference to your plans, we have some reservations which we would like to discuss with you.

We believe that while the strategy is a move in the right direction, the timescales set out in your letter put an unfair burden on current hackney and private hire drivers.

The design and manufacture of low-emission taxis is still in its infancy and options for drivers are both expensive and limited.

With your current schedule for compliance dates, existing drivers would be expected to fund a £40,000-plus purchase within the next 18 to 30 months depending on their vehicle type. This comes after recent investment by drivers of up to £15,000 each to upgrade to newer vehicles to comply with wheelchair access rules.

We would ask you to consider that most drivers in Slough are only making £15k to £20k per year and finances are increasingly stretched by rising costs for insurance, maintenance, fuel as well as the general cost of living.

This makes it highly unlikely that the majority of drivers will be able to afford new low-emission vehicles. I appreciate that there will be funding available to help drivers with purchasing new vehicles but the reality is that drivers will still be required to fund £30,000-plus from their own pocket (and more for WAV).

We would suggest that it would be more realistic to push back the compliance dates to allow more time for the low-emission vehicle industry to catch up with the aims of local authorities with regard to improving air quality.

Doing so would give drivers more time to prepare financially and the increased competition between manufacturers would lead to a wider variety of vehicle choices, lower prices and an increase in finance options when purchasing a new vehicle (hire purchase, contract leasing etc).

It would also allow drivers to sell their current vehicles over a longer period of time, rather than everyone trying to sell their vehicles at the same time and thus creating a glut which will lead to lower resale prices.

We hope you will take the views of our 108 members into consideration and will work with us to ensure a smooth and achievable transition to low-emission vehicles.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Sarfraz Khan

Chairman
Slough Taxi Federation

(Consulted the Slough Taxi Federation to provide you a detailed reply)

New Sovereign Cars Ltd

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Web: www.newsovereigncars.co.uk

28.7.2017

Mick Sims
Public Protection Services
Slough Borough Council
St Martins Place
51, Bath Rd
Slough
SL1 3UF

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the 60 Drivers and staff at New Sovereign Cars Ltd, I refer to your letter dated 11th July 2017 regarding SBC efforts to improve air quality in Slough

I am grateful for your inclusive approach in consulting with taxi operators in Slough and can confirm that not only do we recognise the importance of improving air quality in Slough but we are also keen to play an active role in doing so.

With reference to your plans we have some reservations which we would like to discuss with you.

We believe that while the strategy is a move in the right direction, the timescales set out in your letter put an unfair burden on current private hire & hackney carriage drivers.

The design and manufacture of low-emission taxis is still in its infancy and options for drivers are both expensive and limited.

With your current schedule for compliance dates, existing drivers would be expected to fund a £40,000-plus purchase within the next 18 to 39 months depending on their vehicle type. This comes after recent investments by drivers of up to £15,000 each to upgrade to newer vehicles..

We would ask you to consider that most drivers in Slough are only making £15k to £20k per year and finances are increasingly stretched by rising costs for insurance, maintenance, fuel, as well as the general costs of living,

This makes it highly unlikely that the majority of drivers will be able to afford new low-emission vehicles. I appreciate that there will be funding available to help drivers with purchasing new vehicles but the reality is that drivers will still be required to fund £30,000-plus from their own pocket (and more for WAV).

We would suggest that it would be more realistic to push back the compliance dates to allow more time for the low-emission vehicle industry to catch up with the aims of local authorities with regard to improve air quality

Doing so would give drivers more time to prepare financially and the increased competition between manufacturers would lead to a wider variety of vehicle choices, lower prices and an increase in finance options when purchasing a new vehicle (hire purchase, contract leasing etc).

It would also allow drivers to sell their current vehicles over a longer period of time, rather than everyone trying to sell their vehicles at the same time and thus creating a glut which will lead to lower resale prices

We hope you will take the views of our Drivers into consideration and will work with us to ensure a smooth and achievable transition to low-emission vehicles
I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Abid Rehman
Manager
New Sovereign Cars Ltd

_Licensing

From:
Sent: 10 July 2017 14:43
To: _Licensing
Subject: Re: Proposed Emission Standards for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles
Categories: Private Hire Operator

Sorry but I feel the population of Slough has increased with the population the increase of cars with new flats being built with a least 2 cars per flat which is adding to the congestion to target taxi and mini cabs I feel is easy option but reducing the cars on Slough roads would make a difference

On 10 Jul 2017 13:44, "_Licensing"

wrote:

Department: Consumer Protection and
Business Compliance Services

Contact Mick Sims

Name:

Contact No: 01753 87664

Fax:

Email:

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Dear Sir / Madam,

Proposed Emission Standards for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

Air pollution levels in Slough exceed legal limits. This air pollution is currently having a negative effect on the health of the population of the town as

detailed the draft Slough Low Emission Strategy due to be published for consultation shortly. The Council is developing a Low Emissions Strategy to

coordinate actions to reduce this problem. Along with other public service vehicles, hackney carriage and private hire vehicles contribute to air pollution in the Borough.

In order to reduce this impact it is proposed to introduce a policy to control the emissions from hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

Sims Michael

Subject: FW: Emissions Proposals

From:
Sent: 09 August 2017 13:49
To: _Licensing
Subject: Emissions Proposals

Dear

Mick Sims / Licensing Team

I received an email dated 10th July 17 which detailed proposed plans regarding emission standards due to Sloughs air quality levels exceeding legal limits. I agree as would many residents of Slough that air quality is an issue that must be addressed. I also agree with the proposals that are being put forth to come into effect. I however raise an objection to the timings of such proposals as I believe this would put newly registered private hire vehicle owners that have spent large amounts of money in getting licensed, purchasing and insuring a new car that does meet the euro 6 standards in a huge financial loss. I shall give you my personnel example to make matters clearer and also believe there are many other private hire drivers in Slough in a similar position who may or may not come forward.

I embarked on my journey to become a private hire driver in late 2016 and became qualified in June 2017. I then spent £14,000 in buying and insuring a car. After this process was complete and i was on the road I realised after receiving an email that as my car did not meet the euro 6 emissions standard if the current proposals being discussed come into effect I will no longer be able to get a vehicle licence for a car i have spent £11,000 on from 1st Jan 2019 rendering my car unusable as a private hire vehicle.

I would have been expecting to get at least 6 to 7 years service from my car as it is a 2014 plate but if the proposals go through as planned I would only get 2 years service and then be forced into buying another car due to the new emissions policy which I most likely will not be able to afford.

As I mentioned earlier a possible solution to this issue that many private hire drivers will face with these proposals can be avoided using a more lengthy timescale of introducing the proposals for current drivers who have vehicles licensed. All new applicants who want to apply for a private hire licence could be told well in advance that the vehicle that is going to be purchased to be used as a private hire vehicle must meet the euro 6 emissions standard.

All vehicles currently licensed and on the council database should be exempt from new emissions policy and be phased out slowly as they reach the end of there licenacble vehicle life. This way there is no financial loss to any of the private hire drivers and the proposals will come into effect albeit slower.

My private hire driver licence number is Should you have any further questions to ask me relating to my views I would be more then happy to discuss. My mobile number is

Your Sincerely

Sims Michael

From:
Sent: 09 August 2017 12:06
To: Sims Michael

hi mick

re.your letter proposed emissions standards for cabs

all my drivers feel that this does not explain in detail what these proposed changes are or will be.

would it be possible to issue letters to them exp[aining these proposals in laymans terms.(vehichle types,ages and costs etc)

also I feel that the committee would like as much feedback as possible from the drivers concerned,

but by asking them their views on a online survey would be totally beyond a large majority of them.

would you consider a different way in which you gather these drivers views,after all im sure you want as many relavent views as possible.

many thanks Gerry station cars langley

SPHDA

RECEIVED

21 AUG 2017

Slough Private Hire Drivers Association

Dear Mick Simms (licensing Manager),

Ref: Proposed Emission Standards Hackney and Private Hire Drivers

Thank you for the recent consultation meeting with regards the above issue.

I believe a full public consultation is in process and the closing date is 28th August 2017, although in our meeting you requested that we ask our drivers to participate in the survey on the website <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XQS3QDZ>, a majority of our drivers complained that they did not have the technical skills or equipment to carry out this task.

We therefore carried out our own consultation, i would like to make you aware of concerns of the drivers and strongly request these issues are raised at licensing committee meeting, so that they are aware of the feeling and concerns about our private hire drivers.

The drivers previously signed a petition opposing the switch to hybrid switching to plug-in-hybrid/electric vehicles. The SPHDA would like to make the licencing team and the licencing committee aware of this concern.

The drivers are not happy at the fact this is a policy adopted by Slough Borough Council, although Central government does not require it be implemented in Slough yet and **NO** other Neighbouring council has this policy. (i.e. Windsor & Maidenhead, Bracknell, South Bucks, Spelthorne, Wycombe Council).

Although some drivers agreed in principle with the idea of a clean air zone, they have very serious concerns and feel that being of a low income they are being driven out of the private hire trade; due to increased costs and legislation by the local government.

The majority of drivers said they could not afford new or five year old lower emission vehicles (i.e. Hybrid, electric, gas..etc) and suggested that if a clean air zone is adopted by Slough Council, then the age policy for vehicles **MUST** be changed to accommodate this process.

Our suggestion which is also approved by the private hire drivers is that Euro 6 diesel/Euro 4 Petrol vehicles up to 7 years old be licensed and have vehicle licence expire date of 12 years. (similar to Windsor and Maidenhead council)

The SPHDA fully support this proposal.

We the SPHDA expect a very low response the website survey and therefore submit this letter on behalf the Slough Private Hire Drivers to be presented at the committee meeting.

Yours Sincerely

Attab Khan (Vice Chairperson)

Licensing

From:
Sent: 21 July 2017 15:20
To: _Licensing
Subject: Licensing Committee Members

Categories: Mick

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are concerned about the proposed changes for introducing low emission taxi vehicles.

The work in slough is very limited for the drivers to invest high amounts of money, with minimum contribution.

Drivers cannot afford to change vehicles in 2019 to a euro 6 or 4. Then the proposed change in 2025 to ULEV, change again.

Kind Regards

Slough Taxi Federation