

Preston Hackney Carriage Trade Liaison Meeting

5th September 2023

Attendance

Julia Littlechild – Senior Licensing Technician (PCC)
Elizabeth Wallace-Mills – Senior Licensing Technician (PCC)
Paula Butterworth – Licensing Technician (PCC)
Naveed Sadfar – Chairman (RMT Preston branch)
Sodack Ally – Preston Branch Secretary (RMT)
Daren Ireland – Regional Organiser (RMT)

1. Introduction of attendees

All above attendees introduced themselves and briefly outlined their role.

2.

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 10th May 2023 were not discussed. However, these meeting notes are available to view on the Preston City Council website.

3.

LWM advised that Manager not able to attend, but rather than cancel meeting, and to avoid disappointing attendees, we would treat this session as a concern raising and issue logging exercise for the purpose of putting to the Manager prior to the next meeting.

4. Vehicle Categorisation

DI – Biggest issue was the “Categorisation” of cabs and wanted the item in the Policy to be pointed out. **LWM** & **JL** pointed out the specific section in the policy which is in Appendix H – Hackney Carriage vehicle specification 1. 1.3 & 1.4. After which, **DI** aired his concerns on the contents of the policy and stated his thoughts on an urgent Policy review as accident damage to vehicles is duly covered by an MOT and that we should not therefore utilise the “write off” scenario to penalise vehicles unnecessarily, by not allowing any category of write off to be licensed.

SA stated that some cars can be non-categorized after accidents.

DI seems to think that as policy has not been adhered to in this respect for the past 20 years, then why should it suddenly be effective now?

JL responded by explaining that enforcing the policy is paramount and historic behaviour should not prevail.

DI goes on to talk about driver hardship and how this will impact heavily on drivers and their families, especially in these economic times.

Naveed said categories N & S have big differences when it comes to standards of safety and **DI** and **Naveed** concur in agreeing about exercising discretion on standards.

5.Driver safety on Ranks

Naveed- aired concerns at driver safety, particularly at weekends.

SA – Gave an example on Private Hire drivers plying for hire on the Railway station rank and Hackney Drivers being fearful of standing up to them in these situations. Naveed has a list of PH numbers witnessed plying on the rank – particularly on Friday/Saturday nights.

DI-questioned the possibility of accessing the railway CCTV system going forward as it's a common happening, not only from Preston licensed vehicles, but from UBER and cross border issues too. Church street rank issue was also mentioned. DI also thinks that issues raised at meetings should be passed onto LCC for their input and intervention where possible.

Naveed raised his concerns about obstructions on ranks (deliveries, just eat etc)

DI-questioned the delegated powers of enforcement on such issues.

LWM-explained the dual control of powers of enforcement.

6.AOB

DI- asked about tariff update. LWM explained the consultation process to follow.

SA- wants clarity on new plate applicant status-

7. Date of next meeting

Town Hall

7th November 2023 (TBC) Meeting room TBC