

From: jud boyle <xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx>
Sent: 24 August 2021 13:39
To: consultation <consultation@torbay.gov.uk>
Subject: Consultation Autumn 2021

To whom it may concern.

I would like to respond to the consultation in greater depth.

My response comes as someone who has been in the trade, as a driver, for twenty two years. I am currently an owner driver and also a Director at Torbay Cab Company.

I would say that a lot of the policy has not been looked at objectively, and resides in an ideal world.

i will try to list my comments as briefly as possible :-

MEDICALS

5.22

This should probably not be council approved suppliers but rather the suppliers to fit a set criteria. This would enable choice and not leave the council open to accusations of favour.

VEHICLES - SPECIFICATION AND CONDITIONS

14.6

25/11/2021

The initial time scale on this change is too soon. The choice of Hybrid vehicles is very narrow at the moment. There is a six month lead time on new vehicles and this is putting pressure on the second hand market. Add this to the fact that most manufacturers are only just introducing Hybrids this year, it makes the policy a little too rushed.

HC drivers also have to consider the BLACK livery which narrows the choice even further.

Hybrid vehicles can be as much as £10k more than standard vehicles and therefore the time scale is too short for drivers to be ready for this financial adjustment.

01/04/2024

I really don't understand this policy change. Plugin hybrids are less efficient than self charging and are only suitable for low mileage vehicles. The electric element is only viable for the first 30 miles if you're lucky. The petrol engine is smaller and therefore less efficient. I suspect drivers would drive them without a charge, rendering them useless environmentally. Self charging Hybrids should be chosen over and above plugins.

01/05/2026

For myself, and many drivers, we are concerned. We do many shifts that would not last a single charge. There are infrastructure and home charging issues. I would suggest that this part of the policy change be shelved and looked at again in the future.

I would suggest that the first part of this policy change be moved back by at least a year and the rest be put on hold pending further review.

Extending the amount of time you can own a car from 10 - 15 years is ridiculous. This is the council trying to make a policy look workable. No vehicle can realistically last fifteen years, the interior would be ruined and quite frankly the vehicle would be very much like " TRIGGERS BROOM".

With my own average mileage, I would be looking at 6000000 miles. Generally my vehicles only last up to 2000000 miles.

DOOR SIGNS

14.39

Why insist on a landline?

Some drivers do not want a phone number on their car. It may not be necessary for their work. PH vehicles have a number of ways to be identified already.

This seems to be a pointless policy change.

APPENDIX D

I believe boot space requirements have been changed to accommodate the new policy on electric vehicles. The reason being, the boots are a lot smaller.

We are experiencing a loss of HC multi seat vehicles to the fleet. Up until recently this was put down to the boot space not being big enough.

Policy on boot space changes, and so does multi seat vehicle policy. Now multi seaters won't be licensed if a seat has to be moved to gain access. This will now affect the PH trade too. Does the licensing department think these vehicles are unsafe? How so if the cars are manufactured and sold in this country?

This is a blanket policy to prevent certain cars getting licensed. Whilst I agree that some cars are unsuitable, they should be vetted individually. This is lazy policy making!

The door is being pushed wide open for cross border hiring (there is evidence of this already), Loss of school contracts, airport work, etc.

This policy, along with the rest of the onerous conditions being put upon us, are threatening to put us out of business. Less and less choice, along with more and more expenses are strangling the trade. Give us a chance to breathe in these difficult times.

Jud Boyle
Taxi Driver
Chairman - Torbay Cab Company