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REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM CURRENT VEHICLE CRITERIA, MK63KPR

Dear Aberdeen City Council Licensing Department, I would like to request exemption from the current criteria relating to vehicle age at first license. As per guidance by Aberdeen City Council the current age for a Vehicle to be considered for license as a Taxi or Private Hire Car is 10 Years from Date of Registration for Wheelchair Accessible or 5 Years for a non-Wheelchair Accessible.

My current vehicle is an Audi A8 Sport Executive TDI Quattro registration: MK63 KPR, At present this vehicle fails to meet the age requirements set out by Aberdeen City Council on the first registration date of Taxi and Private hire Vehicles.

This vehicle is currently licensed and inspected by Aberdeenshire Council and has never failed an inspection due to condition.

My reason for relicensing in the Aberdeen City area is to offer my current clients a wider range of services and also to enable me to work along side Booking offices located in the City as I am a city resident.

The reasons for my exemption request are:

Current Climate

The Financial climate relating from COVID 19 has led to some harsh trading times for everyone. Personally this has led to any cash reserves set aside for vehicle replacement being used to live day to day. This has made it impossible for me to be able to change the vehicle as I would have ideally like to a compliant vehicle of a similar quality.

Replacement Vehicle Costs

To be required to replace a perfectly usable tool in a business with a tool that is going to carry out the same job in exactly the same manner with no benefit or gain to the end user and of great cost financially to myself is Wasteful and uneconomical.

The Value of my vehicle in late 2019 was close to £17,000 today the value of the vehicle is less than £10,000. Should I wish to replace my vehicle like for like with a younger model from 2016 the Cost would be in excess of £19,000, Should I wish to go for a newer vehicle around 2019 with vastly less miles the cost would exceed £45,000.

As you can see from the figures that I have quoted I would have to secure funding for £10,000 or £36,000 in order to replace the vehicle with no benefit to myself or the end user.

Customer Experience

My current customer base has been conquered over time from other companies that are unable to provide vehicles that meet the standard they demand. They also feel comfortable recommending me to family/friend not just due to the service they received but due to the quality of vehicle. This in 2020 has led to carrying out the transport for weddings. I feel that having a vehicle of the standard on the Aberdeen City fleet would be highly beneficial and I would be proud to operate a service within the city.

In Summary the current uncertain climate that Aberdeen faces financially due to Covid-19 makes me unable to secure funding for a replacement vehicle combined with not receiving any SEISS grant and I still will not be able to claim SEISS in the 4th and 5th cycles.

I hope you will look favourably upon this request to enable me to return to a career that I i passionate about.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Chyla