

Consultation Options for Street Knowledge Test

1. Amended Test for Private Hire Drivers

In recognition that private hire journeys must be pre-booked and that the driver will therefore have a degree of advance knowledge of the journey to be taken, an amended test could be prepared for private hire drivers. The amended test would examine the driver's knowledge of the city at a more general level than that of the current test recognising that the driver will have a degree of warning of the journey whilst also acknowledging that the advance notice may be extremely brief, particularly in relation to app-based systems.

2. Abolition of the Test for Private Hire Drivers

Expanding on option one, there is an argument that as the journeys require to be pre-booked that there is no need for a test for private hire drivers. As indicated at option one, however, the period of advance notice may be short, and a basic knowledge of the city may be beneficial in such circumstances.

3. Amended Resit Procedures

The present test contains 4 sections which must all be passed. Currently if any section is failed then the whole test must be sat again. An alternative option, where an applicant passes all sections but one, is to allow the applicant one opportunity to resit the failed section only at a reduced fee. If the section is failed again then the applicant must sit the whole test again.

4. Driver Training Qualification

Whilst relating more to maintaining standards than directly to the test, some local authorities require drivers to obtain an SQA qualification on taxi/private hire driving in addition to the test. This could be an option to improve general standards.