

Taxi trade proposals for mixed fleet.

ACC's Licensing Committee's policy since circa 2018 is for city to adopt a mixed Taxi fleet, these are our proposals / suggestions. These proposals are just an initial framework

Current Numbers of Taxis in Aberdeen, courtesy of Compliance 21st August 2024.

Saloon Yellow, Green plate: 207

WAV Vehicles 313

Our view is that ultimately the split should be 60% saloon, 40% WAV however it is obviously clear without skewing the numbers at the offset, this cannot be achieved immediately. We need to be conscious of LEZ restrictions applicable to Taxis come June 2025. A number of current WAV vehicles will need to be replaced prior to June 2025, if not the WAV number could drop. Last data available (Feb 2024) showed that there were 146 vehicles at that time that would not comply with LEZ, however, majority of these drivers have, or will replace their vehicles prior to June 2025.

Cost of WAV vehicles also need to be considered. A WAV in 2019/20 cost approx. £21k, same vehicle today costs £37k

We would keep policy that all new Taxi Licences are WAV. Although WAV vehicles are extremely expensive, there may be an opportunity for new applicants to purchase vehicles that drivers are replacing with saloons. We would also advocate some form of incentive by the council to encourage and to help drivers when first Licensing a WAV vehicle and should be a reduced cost (£40) test fee.

Our suggestion at the outset.

Stage 1, aim to initially get to a 50/50 split in 12 months, if we were to try and achieve this instantly, we would need 53 WAV drivers to convert, that, in our opinion is too many, so we would suggest that this is done in a controlled manner. At the outset allow 25 WAV drivers to convert to saloon giving them 12 months to make switch. By this time next year (2025) any loss of WAV vehicles due to LEZ will be apparent and a clearer picture will emerge, at which point we go to stage 2, and aim to reach a 60% 40% split by October 2026.

Who gets the option ?

Drivers who have held a WAV Licence longest, from 1995 forward, we think this is the fairest way. We feel this option should only be available for individual Licence holders and not companies.

