

## Request for Deputation

**Name**                    **Graeme McColl**

**Committee**            **Licensing**

**Agenda Item**        **Removal Of Minimum Engine Size and Street Knowledge Testing for Private Hire Drivers**

The action I wish the Council/Committee to take

Dear Convener,

ATG wish to make a deputation on the above points as detailed below:

**Removal of Minimum Engine Size;**

We think that the council should be careful in removing this condition as although technology has moved a long way since this decision was first taken we still have to make sure that a car is suitable.

We would ask the committee to look at whether or not they feel a car under 1400cc is able to pull a full car and luggage.

Also the report states that taxi/ph car must be able to carry 4 passengers safely. The problem I see with this is that ACC has already licensed cars with three passenger seats and from what we were aware this was not allowed.

It looks like there is a lot more research needed in to this topic as the implications could be far reaching in terms of safety (which we think would out way the environmental benefits).

## **Street Knowledge Testing For Private Hire Drivers;**

**ATG are fully aware of the Court case that happened on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 between ACC & Sam Murray but would ask ACC to act with caution on the removal of a test for Private Hire Drivers**

**Being aware of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 where it states that a licensing authority can require applicants for a taxi driver's licence to take a street knowledge test prior to the grant of the licence, it does not say that you can't make a private hire driver sit the same test????**

**The Sherriff obviously found the ACC 1990 policy ultra vires which we respect but with new legislation passed (Air Weapons Act 2015) allowing private hire drivers to be included within the licensing requirements for knowledge testing (under section 64) we thought that it may have been enough for ACC to form an appeal against the Sherriff's decision.**

**Again we appreciate that section 64 is not in force and no date has been given for this but it will change the face of the trade in Aberdeen if we start giving out Private hire driver licences without knowledge testing.**

**There also has to be an impact on the public as they will be getting Private Hire Cars dispatched to them through an office with a driver who may have very little knowledge of the streets in Aberdeen.**

**Is relying on a SAT NAV the answer for the future? Nobody is saying that things can't change but surely changing for the better is what we are aiming to achieve.**

**There has been tentative talks of further training in the trade and maybe this form of customer training etc. is what should be taken in as a minimum for Private Hire Drivers until section 64 is passed (if legally able to do so).**

**As a representative for the trade we again just ask the members to look at the recommendations within the report as we can only see that removing the test for Private Hire Drivers being negative for the taxi trade in Aberdeen and possibly being flooded with companies like UBER.**

**Please note that in submitting a deputation your name will be placed in the public domain and recorded in the minute.**

Return by email to [committeeservices@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or by post to:

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