

Knowledge Test Consultation Responses.

With regards to the proposed changes to the way in which a driver applies for a licence.

How would this affect those drivers licensed under the current regime? If a driver who is currently licensed by the authority is instructed that upon renewal application they must pass the taxi drivers street knowledge test within six months of that renewal application how would the authorities expect that they go about this from the date of any implementation of change? Would they still have that right to the six month period to pass the test?

The changes would only apply to new applicants. Current licence holders who have not yet sat the knowledge test would still require to do so on first renewal and would have the 6 month deadline from the submission of their renewal application to pass the test.

Furthermore does Aberdeen city council believe it to be legal to ask an applicant to pass a “test” before they apply for a licence?

Yes. The legislation provides for authorities to implement such a test, the only change proposed is the method of doing so. Other authorities such as Glasgow already operate in such a manner.

If so is there any examples of any other licensed activity governed by Aberdeen city council where you would be expected to pass a “test” before your licencing application would be considered?

Many licences require some form of certification as a pre-requisite to application. Most commonly these will be from other council departments such as planning, building control or environmental health. Perhaps the closest example to what is being proposed is the Personal Licence procedure in alcohol licensing which requires an external exam to be passed prior to application.

Would the “test” still be part of the fit and proper person assessment that an authority goes through when considering an application?

The fit and proper person test is a separate element to that of the knowledge test.

Was there any other material taking into consideration during the “consultation process”?

Unsure as to what this question means. The consultation process is to seek the opinion of the trade on the procedural changes proposed.

I look forward to your response.