

My reasons for pursuing this option are as follows.

Due to changes in the regulations, I would be forced to change my vehicle. Before these changes, I would have expected to have at least another year or two to finish paying off the finance and save a deposit for a new vehicle.

Due to downturn in the taxi industry because of covid, my current vehicle has lower than average mileage (for an average car, significantly lower than an average taxi) is still in excellent condition and in fact receives regular complements from passengers. most of my passengers are under the impression that it is a new/nearly new Mercedes.

Due to Covid my current financial situation is dire. a new car/WAV, plus interest is going to cost me around £20K over the next few year where had been expecting it only to cost £4k (the remainder of my current finance agreement. As this vehicle has been used as a taxi its trade in/resale value is £2.2K. this is despite vehicles of this age and mileage selling for £10-15K. Gaining finance for a new vehicle is also a big "if" I have missed many bill payments over the past two years and may not be allegeable to borrow.

Over the next few years I would be looking to change to a WAV in order to pick up off the street. This is not currently a meaningful part of my day to day business. Before covid this was a picking off the street or ranks was a large part of my business and I expect it to be again once trade picks up. Also once the city centre is reorganised and patrons know/understand where and how to catch a taxi without having to arrange it through a booking office.

As of Monday 18th I will no longer be trading until I have either a new vehicle or affirmation from the licencing committee. an efficient response will be greatly appreciated. I would be happy to discuss over the phone if you wish.

Can you please advise whether there is any way to expedite the decision from the licencing committee and the application process (if applicable). What date is the meeting of the licencing committee?

Also with regards to the fee payment, I was advised that I would be sent a link to the payment portal upon application for a new licence grant. payment of this pending a decision route going forward.

Thanks in advance for your help

Lee Johnston.