

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- **THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE LICENSING & REGULATORY PANEL**

Date of Meeting:- 7TH November 2001

Agenda Item No:-

A.3

Public

Operational

Delegated Yes

Accompanying Comments and Statements

	Required	Included
Cumbria Fire Service	No	No
Cumbria Constabulary	No	No
Environmental Services	No	No
Corporate Planning & Information Unit	No	No

Title:-

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS
NAMES ON IDENTITY BADGES**

Report of:-

CITY SOLICITOR AND SECRETARY

Report reference:-

TC. 216/01

Summary:-

The Secretary of Carlisle Taxi Association has written on behalf of his members, requesting that the driver's name be removed from the identity badge carried.

Recommendation:-

That members consider the options after hearing representations from the Hackney Carriage Associations.

J M Egan
City Solicitor and Secretary

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:- Letter from Carlisle Taxi Association a copy of which is attached.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Licensing & Regulatory Panel on
7th November 2001**

The Secretary of Carlisle Taxi Association, Mr Wayne Casey, has written on behalf of his members, requesting that the driver's name be removed from the identity badge carried by all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers (Appendix A)

They comment from a security point of view, names are more easily traceable than badge numbers should the driver become involved in a confrontational situation. The writer mentions Door Supervisors and Bus Drivers who do not display their names.

Door Supervisors registered with this council carry an identity badge bearing their number, photograph and expiry date only. Enquires with Stagecoach confirms that their drivers do not have any identification at all, other than their uniforms.

Enquires with the other five Cumbria Local Authorities, reveals that they all include driver's names on Hackney/Private Hire driver's badges and three also include them on Door Supervisors badges.

Examples of the current badges issued by this council are attached (Appendix B)

A copy of the letter from Carlisle Taxi Association was sent to The Independent taxi Association for their comments. The Secretary Mr Mike Martin has informed me verbally that it went to a close vote at their meeting, but was carried by a small majority in favour of removing the names.

The panel is requested to consider the application and make a decision from the options available.

OPTIONS

1. Retain the current policy
2. Remove the driver's name from Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers badges upon renewal.

Prepared by J A Messenger

Carlisle Taxi Association

11 May, 2001

Mr Messenger / Mr Sharrock
Licensing Officers
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
CA3 8QG

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPT	
FILE	
15 MAY 2001	
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Dear Sirs:

I write on behalf of Carlisle Taxi Association.

Following a meeting of the association, I have been asked to write to you regarding driver's names on identification badges.

As you maybe aware, in the past all a driver had for identification was his badge issued by the council, the badge was quite literally a badge with a number on it, no photograph, no name just the drivers license number.

This changed during the early 1990's and the badges now have the photograph of the driver, the drivers name and the drivers license number.

It has been mentioned to our association by members that the name on the badge may put a driver at risk, the driver doesn't know who his passengers are and there is nothing to stop a irate passenger with a dubious background finding out the address of a driver from the drivers name.

We therefore suggest that the council consider removing the drivers name from identification badges from the start of the next licensing period.

If a customer has a legitimate complaint about a driver, they may still take the drivers identification number and report the incident. As each driver number is individual, the process of finding out the drivers name is still quite easy. The customer will be still assured that the driver is legitimate due to the photograph on the badge.

If you have any thoughts on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Wayne J Casey
Secretary



Carlisle Taxi Association

2 October, 2001

Mr Messenger
Licensing Officer
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle
CA3 8QG

Dear Sir:

I write on behalf of members of Carlisle Taxi Association.

As you may recall, I wrote to you a number of months ago regarding the removal from badges of driver's names. As an objection from the Independent Taxi Association was made, the matter was dropped for this licensing period.

I would be obliged if the matter could be raised at the licensing panel at the first available opportunity, to be discussed for introduction at the next licensing period (August 02).

Our members still question the need for the drivers name to be on a badge, if a driver needs to be reported for any offence his license number should be satisfactory.

The security point of the matter is that names are more easily traceable than badge numbers, therefore if a driver was to report a hooligan for whatever offence occurred, the driver could be traced by that hooligan.

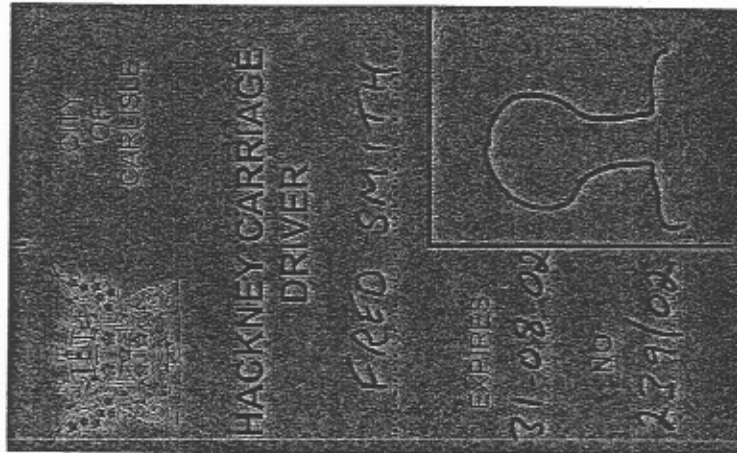
I would additionally point out that bus drivers do not carry their names on their badges and I understand that door supervisor's names are withheld from their badges, probably for the same reasons.

Sincerely,

Wayne J Casey
Secretary



Hackney Carriage Driver's Badge



Private Hire Drivers Badge



Door Supervisors Badge

