

Enquiries to: Licensing  
Direct Dial: 01228 817523  
email: [licensing@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@carlisle.gov.uk)

11 August 2021

Dear Mr Casey

We have received a request from Mr Chris Bray, for the Council to consider limiting the number of Hackney Carriage licences. He has carried out his own poll amongst proprietors which indicates that he has the support of a large proportion of vehicle owners. In order to consider the request the Council would be required to commission a demand survey with the intention of refusing any further applications for Hackney Carriage licences if the survey indicates that there is no significant unmet demand

This survey is a legal requirement if the Council intend to limit the number of Hackney Carriages they license and must be repeated every 3 years. The cost of this survey, should it go ahead, will be borne by the Hackney Carriage proprietors through an increase in their vehicle licence fees.

The cost of such a survey would be approximately £10,000.

Spreading this cost over the 3 years would result in an increase of approximately £20 each year for Hackney Carriage owners (not drivers) and would increase with inflation.

In 2007, after consultations with The Taxi Association, the Council stopped issuing licences to non-wheelchair accessible taxis. The Council were able to do this without the requirement for a survey as they did not stop issuing licences all together. The number of Hackney Carriages licensed at that time was 212 and now, some 14 years later, this figure has reduced to 198.

Both the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Department for Transport (DFT) have issued guidance to Councils regarding quantity restrictions. Most Councils do not impose quantity restrictions and the advice from the OFT and DFT is that it is "*Best Practice*" not to have a limit.

In considering the request, the Members of the Regulatory Panel will take into consideration the OFT and DFT guidance, as well as the result of the Demand Survey. I must point out however, that even if a survey is commissioned and indicates that there is no significant unmet demand, Members may still decide to follow the 'Best Practice' guidance outlined above and not limit the number of Hackney Carriage licences issued.

We have decided to put the facts to the Regulatory Panel, to determine if they would be likely to limit numbers should a Demand Survey show there is no significant unmet demand. This

would give an indication of the Panel's view on this matter. If they are unlikely to limit numbers whatever the result, proprietors may consider that a Demand Survey is not necessary.

Please could you complete the online questionnaire by **31<sup>st</sup> August 2021**, you will need to type the following into your web browser or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



<https://forms.office.com/r/YqZ9e6svHU>

The results of the questions will assist the Members of the Regulatory Panel in gauging the support for a Demand Survey. If the questionnaire is not completed then Members may form the view that you are in agreement with the Council's current policy on the licensing of Hackney Carriages. I would therefore urge you to complete the questionnaire.

Yours Sincerely

[Signature area]

Nicola Edwards  
Licensing Manager