
From:
Sent: 24 August 2011 14:56
To:
Subject: FW: Request to licence Rear Accessible Wheelchair Vehicles
Importance: High

I am now in the process of arranging dates for a possible consultation on this issue and would be grateful for the information in my below email as soon as possible.

In addition I also need the following:

- At point 12 you mention Slough Borough Councils fleet of wheel chair accessible vehicles, can you please enlarge on this!
- I would also advise that you must provide to me again as soon as possible and to be included in the report, written proof, evidence and statistical data on all the comments you have made below as it will also help the Committee greatly and may answer some questions they may have.

Also it would be advisable to again provide answers to the below points

- If a rear loading wheelchair accessible vehicle in on a taxi rank in the middle of a row of cars, how are you going to ensure that there is sufficient space to load the person in the wheelchair into the rear of the vehicle!
- If you are hailed in the street, what safety provisions will you have in place to stop and load the wheelchair on a busy road!
- If you pick up a fare from an area which has restricted access, again what provision will be in place to deal with!
- Once the wheelchair in the rear of the vehicle what addition space is available for any friends or family that will also be travelling with the disabled person!

Regards

Licensing Manager

Slough Borough Council

www.slough.gov.uk

Please don't print this email unless you really need to - think of the environment.

From:
Sent: 22 August 2011 08:49
To:
Subject: RE: Request to licence Rear Accessible Wheelchair Vehicles
Importance: High

Thank you for your below email submitted as a formal request for Slough Borough Council to review the licensing of Rear Accessible Wheelchair Vehicles.

I will put your request before the Full Licensing Committee on **5th October 2011** (which is the next scheduled Full Licensing Committee Meeting) as an 'Information Report' for the Members to consider your request and if necessary for a full consultation exercise to be conducted.

In the meantime I would be grateful if can provide to me by the end of this week if possible, with as much

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information as possible to support your request, i.e.

- The various types of Rear Accessible Wheelchair Vehicles.
- The cost comparisons between these types of vehicles and the currently licensed wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- With regards to the types of vehicles, please submit this information by way of adverts or manufacturers brochures.
- Other than the details of the local authorities you have mentioned in your request, any other local authorities that also licence Rear Accessible Wheelchair Vehicles. This information will assist for any recommended formal consultation exercise.

Finally, on the 5th October, you may wish to have possibly two different types of rear accessible wheelchair vehicles for the Members to inspect prior to them making a decision for a consultation to take place.

Regards

Licensing Manager

Slough Borough Council

www.slough.gov.uk

Please don't print this email unless you really need to - think of the environment.

From:

Sent: 22 August 2011 02:22

To:

Subject: Request to licence Rear Accessible Wheelchair Vehicles

Dear [REDACTED]

Ref: Request to licence Rear Accessible Wheelchair Vehicles

Thank you for letter dated 3rd August to [REDACTED] regarding rear accessible wheelchair vehicles. As you stated in your letter that you require us to make a formal written request for this type of vehicle to be licensed, please accept this as a formal request.

Please find list below of reasons for wanting rear accessible wheelchair vehicles:-

1. As there is very limited wheelchair work from any of the Ranks in Slough.
2. Side loading wheelchair vehicles are a lot larger so therefore take up more space at ranks so therefore fewer vehicles can park there.
3. Side loading wheelchair vehicles are larger can carry more passengers but most of the customers we pick from any of the Ranks are One or Two therefore there isn't a need for such large vehicles.
4. Side loading wheelchair vehicles are a lot larger and consume more fuel than rear loading vehicles. The TX2 and TX4 do on average 23 miles to the Gallon whereas a Peugeot Partner does 50+ miles to the Gallon.
5. Side loading wheelchair vehicles are a lot dearer to purchase than rear loading wheelchair vehicles. A four year older Mercedes Vito Or LTI TX4 costs At least £18,000.00 whereas a brand new rear loading vehicle can be purchased for £12,000.00. A four year old Peugeot Expert Side Loading E7 costs £13-15,000.00

6. Other Local councils allow rear loading wheelchair vehicles such as Windsor, Ascot, Maidenhead, Bracknell, Wokingham, Runnymede, Hemel Hempstead to name a few.
7. Almost all Private Wheelchair accessible vehicles are rear loading. There isn't even a side loading option available to them that I am aware of unless they buy a purpose built Taxi. These people buy these rear loading wheelchair vehicles for their children, partners, parents or other family members. These people use the rear loading vehicles to get out and at least 2 or 3 times a week, whereas there are Hackney drivers with wheelchair accessible vehicles who have not picked a single passenger in a wheelchair from any rank in Slough in the last 5 years.
8. You mentioned the opposition from the National Taxi Association to rear loading taxis in your letter. This organisation only represents or has members in about 20 boroughs in the whole of the UK.
9. If rear wheelchair loading vehicles were so dangerous then the Motor Industry would not produce them for the general public to buy.
10. Slough Borough Council's Out and About service has only Rear loading wheelchair accessible vehicles. These vehicles carry more passengers in wheelchairs in a week than all Hackney's do in a year from all Ranks in the Borough.
11. All Ambulances are rear loading. To this day I haven't come across a side loading Ambulance.
12. If Rear loading wheelchair accessible vehicles were so dangerous why would all Ambulance be rear loading and why would Slough Borough Council's own fleet of wheelchair accessible vehicles be rear loading?????

Could you please forward a copy of this request for rear loading wheelchair accessible vehicles to all members of the licensing committee along with your information pack, Thank You. Could you please inform [redacted] and myself of the date and time of meeting with licensing committee so that we may attend and answer any further questions that you or the committee may have.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.
I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

(Hackney Badge 90)

Secretary Slough Taxi Drivers Union