

Mick Sims
Licensing Manager
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My Council, Landmark Place
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Dear Mr Sims

Ref: Consultation regarding Rear Accessible Wheelchair Vehicles

Please find below views of all Hackney Carriage drivers who were unable to access the consultation for Rear loading Hackney vehicles. Attached you will find names and addresses of all drivers who would like Slough Taxi Driver's Union to reply on their behalf because they were unable to do so themselves.

All drivers would prefer to have rear loading wheelchair vehicles and who prefer for their customer's to be facing the front when in the vehicle. Some of the reasons they gave for their decisions are as follows:-

1. If the wheelchair passenger is facing the front the driver can see the passenger at all times. Some wheelchair passengers travel alone in taxi's and are very elderly or ill, therefore for the well being of the passenger it is beneficial if the driver can see them at all times.
2. Several wheelchair passengers have been sick in side loading taxis because they are travelling backwards in taxi.
3. Slough Borough Council license rear loading Private Hire vehicles so why not Hackney.
4. Majority of vehicles sold on mobility schemes to wheelchair customers are rear loading e.g. Peugeot Partner. If these vehicles are safe for these users why are they not safe as Taxis?
5. 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.
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.
8. If rear wheelchair loading vehicles were so dangerous then the Motor Industry would not produce them for the general public to buy.

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

Kind regards

Mohammed H Mustafa
Secretary Slough Taxi Drivers Union