

## Responses from the trade

### Against the removal of limits

1. In this town there is nothing left night trade since the no smoking ban came in July 2007 the poor hackney drivers are struggling like hell to make living doing 60 jobs a week 3 big private operators drivers making so no money no one else ever has made in the trade money. Hope everyone has had a nice Christmas 🎄 bank Holiday from ash 2 main points please 1 is there no need at all to issue no more hackney carriage licences because there is no work at all left in Hyndburn unless you work for max 2 if you are going to remove the limit on hackney carriages please make it completely free limit free for all everyone and make them all hackney's no private like Rossendale and at least everyone will have to use a council approved meter fare and there will be no private hire operators licence needed like Rossendale Manchester ash 35 yrs experience
2. I personally think there is no need for extra Hackney carriages The walking trade is down with no shops in the Arndale there is enough hackney carriages as it is The problem is with low prices that the private hire companies are charging which has driven a lot of drivers away from the trade and in to Uber delivery's I think you should look at the fares With the price of fuel that has increased and the fares that are set it's just not viable It's a monopoly and the drivers have no say I have been in the trade for 25 years and the prices have decreased Looking at other boroughs the prices are set accordingly I work for myself and have my own set prices But I feel for the drivers Either have meters or the prices have to increase and drivers will return This is what causing the lack of taxis not the Hackney carriages.
3. The limit on Hackney carriages should be the same because there is not enough work for all the 60 Hackney vehicles that are provided by the council. Also there is not enough to park all the 60 Hackney Carriage vehicles on the taxi ranks that are provided by the council, at night time there are 2 ranks 1 on Blackburn Road outside Bees Knees and 1 on Warner Street. Private hire and private vehicles be parked on taxi ranks that are provided by the council so Hackney vehicles do not have any spaces to park on the ranks. We have made several complaints about these issues but no action has been taken yet. As far as this issue with trying to take the limit off the Hackney vehicles we drivers don't agree on this because there are more than enough drivers working on the rank including wheelchair accessible vehicles.
4. Remain limit on hackney carriage.
5. Hi Wendy I hope u well? I have the letter you have sent to all drivers some parts I? don't agree please can you do the survey and find facts because you don't have a problem with public hire the problem is with private hire they are too cheap and then they can't pick up customer and no customer come to public hire vehicles another problem we have parking on ranks is not enough ranks to park 62 hackney cabs before issuing any hackney licences find out the facts also there is drivers working out of town full time u need get them to work in Hyndburn
6. There is no need to increase the number of Hackney carriage vehicle licences. Please see reasons listed below:
  - Not enough work for the current 60 drivers, drivers waiting 1-3 hours for one fare.

- Other Borough taxis working in the area causing negative impact for the Hyndburn hackney carriage licence drivers.
  - Increased taxi maintenance costs such as DBS, MOT, retest costs for minor faults and insurance leaves us with reduced incomes therefore more licences issued will impact us negatively and financially.
  - Covid pandemic has affected the borough tremendously with the highest level of deprivation nationally.
  - No night time economy, no pubs means no work for Hackney drivers.
  - Arndale shopping centre has no viable retail outlets. Shops closing frequently resulting in no customers for the Hackney carriage drivers.
  - No new trade or businesses therefore its not feasible to increase licences.
  - Nationally lowest salaries resulting in customers spending less on taxis.
  - Customers struggling to pay.
  - 'Yobs' youth culture scaring drivers and customers and damaging vehicles daily yet another expense for the Hackney drivers.
  - Hyndburn is a deprived borough and we simply do not earn enough money.
7. I am not a email person. Apology for this. This is my response to issuing more hackney licenses. I have seen rapid decline in taxi business in the borough for about 15 years at least. There are for too many taxis in this town for the size of town 'and rapidly dying town. There are a lot of people in this business because in last few years there were no decent jobs to have .now i believe there are job to have.to say there is unmet demand for taxis is not true at all.90%of taxis are working for private taxi firms 'why because there is no trade to work as independently .so we' instead of working from taxi ranks are having to pay a high amount of rent just to get some trade. So I am sorry to say who ever is telling you about unmet taxi demand is not being honest and realistic.in my opinion if there were some more licenses issued to new drivers ' some dedicated experienced drivers who just hanging on and really struggling might just call it day .it is just my opinion . So one should be very careful before making such a move.
8. Think we already have more taxis for size of town' night life of town because night trade in Accrington is rapidly declining and has done for last 15 to 20 years while I have been in the trade. Sometimes one waits for next job for quiet long time before next job. It is very annoying that you leave your bed ' sit on rank waiting and waiting. You start thinking if one is in right job. I could carry on but I think I made a strong case against the move .thanks
9. As I have received a email regarding they is a problem for taxis for early hours in the morning. The problem is with private hire not public hire so please do a survey so you know exactly way the problem is customer wait and ring private hire when taxi are waiting on the ranks provided please can you let us know in any changes which affect public hire thank yours faithfully
10. Me as a Hackney Carriage driver strongly disagree with the council thinking to take the limit off the Hackney vehicles the reasons are as follows, no parking space for the Hackney cars on the ranks due to private and private hire vehicles parking on our taxi ranks and taking our jobs and no response from the enforcement officer. No business on Friday and Saturday nights and during the day due to closure of shops in Accrington. No signs on the taxi ranks to state even the rank is a taxi rank. We as Hackney Carriage drivers do not agree with the council to issue the wheelchair accessible plates, firstly at night time rarely disable passengers come for a drink in town and get a taxi from the rank so this is pointless to issue wheelchair accessible

and during the day there are more than enough wheelchair access vehicles on the rank. Hope this helps with the council making a decision.

11. Maintain limits on Hackney carriage.
12. No
13. Yes good idea give out free hackney plates, so the drivers can work out of town as private hire drivers. That's why there is shortage of drivers they all working in Ribble Valley, Preston, and Blackburn, dish out more plates and lose the remaining drivers to work out of town. This loophole needs to stop. There shouldn't be more hackney carriage issued as the remaining drivers will use them to work out of town and then there will be no taxis available. As at the moment a few of the private hire drivers are working in Clitheroe under eagle taxis from Accrington. And the hackneys too legally
14. The licensing has sent me a email saying that they want to issue new Hackney plates for wheelchair accessible. I do not agree with this matter because there is not enough work day and night for all the 60 hackneys and also there is not enough space to park on the taxi ranks that are provided for the 60 vehicles. When you have said that at night time there are shortages of taxi vehicles, The public is relating this to private hire vehicles who cannot cover their jobs due to being very cheap so they have to wait extortionate amount of time for a taxi and they will not use us because they say we are "very expensive" but instead our prices have not been changed since 2008. Rather us putting our prices up with this inflation we are still providing a better service with the same price. At night time outside bees knees there are private vehicles parked outside the rank and also private hire vehicles that be picking our jobs and also park there. So our fleet our hackney drivers do not agree with this matter, hope this will help you making a decision on this matter.

### **For the removal of limits**

1. Yeah customers have to wait for too long if there are more plates it would be a lot easy to pick up and clear jobs n please can you put my name on the list
2. Good to hear from you. Yes must need to remove the limit of hackney vehicles. Thanks.
3. I contact you today on your email above regarding the limit of Hackney plates that are issued. We believe that it would be the right decision to lift this as we were considering to leave the Hyndburn borough due to the low fare prices, this would make us reconsider our decision stay on and continue to work with this borough. If you would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact us.
4. Hi I encourage licensing council to issue more hackney plates which is good for public with disabilities and old people thanks
5. Hiya I'm writing to inform you that our council should take the limit off the Hackney plates and the council should consider giving the Hackney plates without the restriction of disable requirements. The reason for this is the public won't then rely on our local taxi companies. As you are aware there is very shortage of taxi drivers in our Borough and the main reason for this is the price's which are set by our taxi companies are very low. Which we fully understand that our council can't do much about that. However our council can help us by giving Hackney plates out so our public can be picked up and get home safe instead of waiting for taxi a long time.

Also I would like our council to consider taking the age limit off the cars because a lot of drivers in Accrington got Blackburn and Darwen plates because our councils age limit on vehicles and 3 mots a year where Blackburn and Darwen council is 2 mots a year and no age restriction on vehicles. We rather give our own council the revenue then giving it to another Borough. However whatever the outcome is will still respect our Councils decision.

6. I encourage the council issue more hackney carriage licence and lift the limit of hackney carriage licence because of more demand of hackney carriage driver and for the public safety and people are facing difficulties to find a Taxi if more hackney carriage driver it is benefit for the people thanks
7. Hackney carriage should be a free trade offer for all taxi drivers the limit should be removed completely for everyone to have an option for the license or make it one combined license for everyone. Understand you wanting wheelchair But no one uses it. Even people with wheel chair manage without the car chair that you are recommending. Wheelchair access could deter drivers to come forward and take up Hackney licence. Its too costly for installation and to change seats when changing vehicle . Please could you relax this rule and make it easier for the drivers just to have the licence only. Only way to make it more appealing for drivers to stay on working late is too put licensing condition for all private hire firms to charge double between 12am and 6am .7 days a week
8. I think there should more hackney licensing as taxi service demand is more with only 60 hackney badges not enough to cover the all day demand with more licences issued will help the public and the taxi service
9. Yes its a good idea a lot of jobs are getting late and u have a lot of no shows. It would be good if u could get a hackney plate
10. That's good
11. I think this is a good idea due to the struggle of clients being able to get taxis, I would support this proposal.
12. I am licenced with yourselves can you please consider myself for a Hackney carriage because currently I am working for Blackburn with Darwen Council and I would like to come back home to Hyndburn Borough Council thank you very much and it would be a lot quicker for customers to get a taxi. Current Hackney drivers majority of them are over 50 and do not work at night so if you do issue more I think you should give them to young drivers like myself thank you please do consider myself

### **Response from a member of the public**

It is sad to say, that the current Taxi services are under performing, late at turning up, if you have to go to an airport train station, or sometimes not turning up at all when booked days in advance, this happened to me twice this year, left out of town and had to phone for another Boroughs taxi service, my daughter had arrange to meet me for lunch in town for 1pm, she arrived at 1-45pm waiting for a taxi that said they would be at her home within 10 mins, so yes a serious review needs to be addressed, R H

