

Our ref: «PKEY»

18 February 2010

Dear

### **Age Limitation on Vehicles**

As you may be aware, the Council has an age limitation on vehicles to be used for Private Hire or Hackney Carriage purposes. This policy has been introduced to ensure that the vehicle provides safety, comfort, reliability and is of an appearance that is satisfactory to passengers. Additionally the environmental impact of car emissions is of growing concern to society and licensed vehicles travelling a high mileage have an increased impact. Regular replacement of vehicles incorporating reduced emission technology improves air quality for all.

At present the Council will consider licensing a vehicle beyond the age limit where the vehicle has done an abnormally low mileage and is in exceptional condition. Additional conditions may be applied to a licence where an extension is granted.

The terms "exceptional condition" and "abnormally low mileage" are not defined within our guidance notes and therefore have been the subject of much discussion between officers of the Council and the trade.

To ensure transparency, the Council would like to develop a set of standards for the terms "exceptional condition" and "abnormally low mileage".

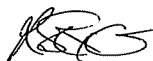
At its meeting on 8 February the Licensing and Safety Committee agreed to consult with the trade upon the attached document. This document seeks to clarify the terms "exceptional condition" and "abnormally low mileage" and if adopted would form the basis for decision making on any application for licensing vehicles beyond the age limit.

A period of consultation between 22 February and 5 April has been agreed by the committee and I would therefore invite your comments particularly on the following:

1. Is the document comprehensive?
2. Are there any areas within the document which need further clarification?
3. Are the criteria for rejection reasonable and sufficiently robust?

Following the consultation your comments will be considered and, if appropriate, the document amended. A report will then be taken to the Licensing and Safety Committee with a recommendation that a document in its present or revised form be included within the Guidance Notes and Conditions booklet and used as the basis for any future requests for an extension of the age limit. The next Licensing and Safety Committee meeting is set for 29 April 2010. I would therefore request that your response be received at this office by 5 April 2010.

I look forward to hearing from you.  
Yours sincerely



**R J Sexton**  
**Head of Trading Standards and Licensing**  
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