

## ***F.P.Cars***

20 Mersey Way, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 3DL

You can not expect us drivers who have a swivel seated taxi to replace them a full disabled access vehicle as the cost of such vehicles are £ 20.000+ and as there is not much call for such vehicles. We were also lead to believe that all councils were to have a mixed fleet of Hackney as some people would not be happy to travel long distance in one.

I along with other Hackney drivers with a swivel seat would take legal action against the council for the removal of the swivel seat plate

May be if the council would be more informative with the information to the drivers and owners of the new proposals which they wish to put forward. And when we ask questions that are very relevant to be given answers, thus then helping us to purchase the correct vehicle that then not leading to wrong vehicle being purchased and not passed as not suitable, then that being money wasted for the said people.

The council come up with all theses new ideas put them out to the drivers and owners with out having all the correct information first so when we ask questions we get given the correct answers and all information needed. IE: best vehicle and where to purchase. Other councils do this so why not West Berkshire?

This is my view on the said matter and hope that the council will seriously think again as this is not acceptable to me.

If you decide for the removal of the swivel seated vehicles, then us drivers who have a swivel seated vehicle should be given Grand Farther Rights to a saloon vehicle

I myself have been on the disabled awareness course twice, and was not given any answers to my questions there either. Why not ??

Also it is a 1% average of people wanting to use a full disabled access vehicle. The blind people of West Berkshire the % is higher they prefer a saloon vehicle as the guide dog has to sit in the front with them in the foot well.



Mr Fred Pope

bv

**F.P.Cars – making life simpler ....**  
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**V.A.T Reg. No 874 3241 20**

Ms. Ricketts,  
21, Chesterton Rd.,  
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RG18 3UH

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010

REF PLATE; 771

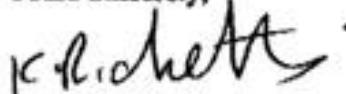
Dear Sirs,

The West Berkshire Hackney Assoc. has just informed me, that West Berkshire Council are trying to make swivel seated plates to go wheelchair access. Firstly I feel that in this present climate that it is not viable to go and spend thousands of pounds on a wheelchair access vehicle & I also feel aggrieved that I have already spent thousands of pounds on a saloon car & swivel seat, which will be useless if these changes are made. When the West Berkshire Council bought in the new laws on swivel seats a lot of drivers lost their plates, as they would not go swivel seated. I feel that the ones that went along with the changes West Berkshire Council made are now being punished once again. I will be seeking legal advice on this situation.

I would agree 100% with the West Berkshire Hackney Assoc. in their proposal that all swivel seated vehicles become normal salon car plates with Grandfather rights & family exemption be lifted. I would also agree that any new plates issued should only be issued to a manufactured disabled access vehicle.

After attending my disabled awareness course set up by West Berkshire Council & hearing that less than 1% of disabled passengers are in a wheelchair. I feel that there should be more saloon cars as Taxis as a lot of passengers are elderly or blind & are unable to access the larger vehicles safely & always request a saloon car to be sent when they are booking taxis & they also get in a saloon car on ranks rather than getting in the larger vehicles.

Yours Sincerely,



K. Ricketts

## 9.1 Training.

Having done the "DAT" course at the RBL I did not find it as useful as I thought and I believe that there should be more training on this with more demonstrations taking place to show drivers more of what they are supposed to do this could take upto 2 years for everybody to get acquainted with all types of disabilities on saying this I would ask for 9.1.3

## 9.2 Vehicles

### 9.2.3

In reply to 5.1 Vehicles upto 6 years old 1 MOT test per year.  
Vehicles thereafter 2 MOTs per year.

abolishing all Taxi Cosmetic Testing and implement the following:

- a) all meter agents supply a docket to show that the meter fitted to that taxi has been sealed, calibrated, and running at the current tariff (this would accompany annual renewals and replacement Taxis) no docket no plate.
- b) all first aid kits and fire ext'ers and general apperance can be done adhoc by the WBC LO's as they do on their trips to the ranks.
- c) by agreeing to this this would let the public, Police, Ministry VOSA know that WBC Hackney & Private Hire vehicles are upto the highest standards.

I know from experience that the current cosmetic test will not take a unroadworthy car off the road

### 9.2.5. Age Limit

No age limit but if a person wishes to plate a vehicle over 8 years old it must be presented to WBC LO's to see if it is fit for purpose,

All wheelchair accessible vehicles must be purpose built vehicles and no adapted vehicles.

Rear access WAV's must be allowed as there are to many different requirements.

### 9.2.6

Having listened to a lot of arguments about swivel seats I note that in your report that that the Judges comments were "unfit for purpose in saloon cars" I can agree with that as you also have to remove the airbag to the car but with the MPV factory fitted swivel seat there is no removal of airbag and the no danger or discomfort to any passenger sat in the FP swivel seat. therefore I ask you to leave swivel seats in MPV's in circulation

Ashley Vass  
AM:PM CARS  
27 Harrington close  
Manor Park  
RG14 2RQ

To whom it concern's

Regarding the working party meeting

Firstly I hoped that the meeting was with all the parties around the table to get an agreed principle for the working party to discuss it later in detail,so when September 13th we would all be agreeable to it I fear that instead we will disagree with what is put forward.

swivel seat hackney plate

1,I bealve that if you make swivel seat vehicle's go full wheelchair plated you will reduce the saloon mpv cars out there for a mixed fleet.

2,I thought the whole point of implementing this was to make it harder for new vehicles coming on to help the struggling taxi trade not to put existing one's out of business as this may do.

3,When I took my plate I knew I had to go swivel seat or full wheelchair I was not giving any spec on what full wheelchair so I opted for swivel seat galaxy that was agreed,now I am expected to buy an expensive full wheel chair vehicle and still there is no known vehicle to fit all.

4,Also it is now agred that everyone agree's that a mixed fleet is the way foward so i propose the following.

4.1, that all swivel seat vehicle's revert to saloon car's and be giving grand father right's.

4.2 that family restriction is removed

4.3 that will give you a maximum number of saloon car's that will never change as they can be passed on.

If this doesn't happen the number of saloon car's will dwindle which the disabled and partially disabled elderly consistly use these vehicle's due to ease of entry and exit as the majority of wheelchair vehicle's are unsuitable for them.

5, I also feel for a mixed fleet the number of pre-existing hackney's of Rear access vehicle's remain and if they change vehicle to stay the same or full manufactured vehicle.

6, I agree that all NEW vehicle licensees be Full manufactured but this must be researched by the council ie Steve Doe to be assigned in doing this and also get advise from the main supplier's Cab direct,Taxi company etch and Disabled group's in testing these vehicle's and not make the same old mistake's make sure that they actually work and not just presume that they will.

We have a chance to get this right once and full all.

Ashley vass

## ***F.P.Cars***

**20 Mersey Way, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 3DL**

West Berkshire Hackney Association

Forward to West Berkshire Council  
Licensing Department  
Faraday Road  
Newbury  
Berkshire  
RG14 2AF

REF: Removal of Hackney plated Taxi's with a swivel seat.

To whom it may concern

With reference to the above, I totally disagree with the decision that you are making, I have tried several times to find out from the licensing team which disabled access vehicles are the best ones to purchase. No one can answer my question or has even bothered to ring me back with an answer.

I have also contacted Cab Direct and spoke to one of there Managers, who also has tried to obtain an answer from the licensing team but he also has been given no answers.

I have also been to look at several disabled access vehicles in the factory's that make them. On looking none of them are suitable as the person sat in the wheel chair head would be bent over to one side as there is not enough head room for them to sit upright, also some of them once a wheel chair in you can not get 4 passengers in the car. I was always lead to believe that a hackney had to carry a minimum of 4 people.

Has I had been given no answers I had to replace one of my taxi's a ford galaxy, so I replaced it with another ford galaxy which has a swivel seat.

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