

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FORUM MEETING

Venue:

Agenda: 9 April 2025

Attendees and who they represent:

Councillor Sarah Classick (**SC**) (Chair) representing Bristol City Council
Jonathan Martin (**JM**) representing Bristol City Council
Dakota Delahunty (**DD**) representing Bristol City Council
Carl Knights (**CK**) representing Bristol City Council
Karen Daniels (**KD**) representing Bristol City Council
Paul Baker (**PB**) representing Bristol City Council
Patrick Quinton (**PQ**) representing Avon & Somerset Police
Mike Bullock (**MB**) representing Bristol Executive Cars
Gary O'neill (**GO**) Private Hire Driver
Mahad Jama (**MJ**) representing Magans
Steve Lohia (**SL**) representing BDriven
Emma Bright (**EB**) representing Veezu

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

Apologies

Christie Twelvetree - Veezu

Mohammed Ismail – BBLTA Chair

2. Agree minutes from last meeting

Minutes from February 2025

Actions:

Notifying Operators of revocations – This is ongoing as JM needs to confirm that providing this information is lawful.

3. Licensing Team Update (JM)

- Current average processing times is 18 days, this includes applications which are incomplete, or referred to PSP. The majority of applications are processed much faster.
Vehicle renewals -14 days
Vehicle grants – 7.9 days
- Some changes have been proposed to the Knowledge Test. A member working group had been arranged for 25 April to discuss what these changes would look like, it would then be referred to PSP for approval.
Some of the trade representatives raised concerns about the proposed changes.

- The current policy is in place until August 2026, and the review would start to take place at the end of this year.
- The fare review had gone through consultation, and was due to go before committee for approval.

4. Transport update (KD)

KD provided an update

There have been a number of requests sent through from MI in relation to taxi rank locations and maintenance, these are being following up as required.

- There have been some minor changes to taxi-ranks, and work is being done to ensure the lines and signs are re-installed and are up-to-date.

5. Taxicop Update

PQ provided an update;

- A number of drivers had raised issues with North Somerset bus lanes. Vehicles with 8 passenger seats are considered a bus and are exempt. Otherwise it's unlikely to change and drivers will need to use normal lanes.
Trade representatives asked what could be done about this. PQ advised that he'd spoken to North Somerset and it could only be changed if a North Somerset Councillor proposes it to the committee.
JM had also spoken to North Somerset who'd advised that the technology that's installed doesn't allow PHV because there's sensors in the bus lanes that sense when vehicles are present which would affect traffic flow on the A38, and that if the trade still had concerns they would need to contact North Somerset Council
PB advised he would continue talking to North Somerset about this.
- There were significant court delays which could take months, if not years. A driver had his licence revoked last year and continued to drive, was due to go to court on Monday, and it was adjourned again. If you know of driver's who have been revoked, and are still working, this is likely why.

6. Issues from BBLTA and issues from Private Hire

Trade representatives asked whether they'd still be able to renew their licence if they hadn't completed the safeguarding refresher.

It was advised that the letter inviting drivers to the safeguarding would say the date that it needs to be done by, provided the training wasn't overdue drivers would be able to renew as normal.

7. AOB and Date of next meeting

JM advised Love saves the day would be taking place in May. There would be a similar set up to last year to ensure space for HCV and PHV. There had been unacceptable issues with refusals in 2024.

Trade representatives asked about the fee increase, JM confirmed they'd increased on 1 April by 5% and that the service has to cover its own costs.

Action Point	Matters arising	By Whom	Completed?
1	Legal advice regarding notifying operators of revocations – speak to other Local Authorities regarding providing information on revocations.	JM	Ongoing
2			
3			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Next meeting: 18 June 2025