



**Consultation on Removing the Requirement for
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers to Undertake
a Practical Driving Assessment Every Three Years**

February 2020

BACKGROUND

In December 2017, Redditch Borough Council made a number of changes to their policies on the licensing of drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

One of these changes introduced a requirement that required those granted a licence to drive hackney carriage and / or private hire vehicles to undertake a practical driving assessment at least every three years.

Concerns have been repeatedly raised by licence holders and their representatives that this is a disproportionate and unjustifiable requirement that serves little practical purpose. Members of the Council's Licensing Committee has considered these concerns at length and has now decided to carry out consultation on whether they should remove the requirement from their policies.

For the sake of clarity, if the requirement was removed, a practical driving assessment will still need to be undertaken by any person applying to the Council for a licence for the first time. The Council would also reserve the right to require an individual licensed driver to undertake a practical driving assessment at any time should legitimate concerns be raised about the standard of their driving.

Responses to this consultation can be emailed to enquiries@worcsregservices.gov.uk using the subject line "Redditch Taxi Driving Assessment Consultation"

Responses can also be submitted via the post to:

Redditch Taxi Driving Assessment Consultation
Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY11 7WF

The consultation will be open for responses until **20th March 2020**. All responses received during the consultation period will be considered by the Licensing Committee before any decisions are taken about whether to remove the requirement from the Council's policies

THE CONSULTATION QUESTION

Redditch Borough Council is considering **removing** the following requirement from its policy on the licensing of **hackney carriage and private hire drivers**:

"With effect from 1st December 2017, holders of driver licences must pass a Driving Assessment test with Worcestershire County Council at least every three years."

Instead licence holders will only have to undertake a driving assessment before they first become licensed or when a Licensing Sub-Committee resolves that an individual driver needs to undertake further assessment following receipt of relevant and verifiable complaints about the standard of their driving.

Do you agree with this proposal?

YES

NO

Please provide reasons for your answer above.

In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?			
Licensed Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver		Licensed Private Hire Operator	
Member of the Public		Elected representative	
Other (please specify)			

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