

Appendix 3 – Summary of Consultation Responses Received

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	35	NO	8
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In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

Licensed Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver	33	Licensed Private Hire Operator	2
Member of the Public	0	Elected representative	0
Other (please specify)	0	Did not answer	8

Comments received from those answering YES to the main consultation question above:

I feel this is a fair proposal. I agree that if there is a complaint about a certain individual then they should be investigated and carry out the assessment in order to maintain the Council's standards. The good drivers should not be penalised

There are few comments but I just say that the driver increases its experience on the road with every drive and he gets more knowledge

I think there is no need to test a driver who is already got UK licence. Because as pilots who fly more hours are considered best pilots so are the drivers.

I agree new drivers need a comprehensive drivers test. Anyone who fail to drive beyond the licence requirements should be made to do their test again.

For new drivers assessments should be done, however for more experienced drivers it shouldn't be permissible.

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I am happy with the decision be made. I insist new drivers must have harder test.

Its fair that good drivers shouldn't have to do assessment test because of there experience and good driving. New drivers and drivers with complaints should take test

Because I'm professional driver I been driving for 10 years now no complaints in taxis about my driving.

After being an experienced driver for 20 years, I believe this is an inequitable requirement which serves no sole purpose. This driving assessment should only be a necessity when drivers are primitively applying for their licence. Experienced drivers evidently obtain the knowledge required, this should not be doubted/judged. Therefore I plea against this statement/view.

I believe this is an unjustifiable requirement that is time consuming and serves no clear purpose. Licensed drivers should only have to carry out the driving assessment test when initially applying for their licence.

I think there is no need to test a driver who does not have a medical condition and which is already in rules so.

I think Redditch drivers have good record for safe driving and I don't see any need to go for driving test after every three years when his driving is ok.

Any driver breaking the law must be made to do an assessment. New drivers should be made to do the test, I think a lot of them need to take lessons again.

New drivers especially private hire drivers need a thorough and stricter driving assessment.

As a seasoned driver of over 30 years, I take great care as many drivers do in my job making sure customers have a pleasurable experience when travelling with us. Any driver caught breaking the law I believe should take a retest. New drivers must take a full assessment as I find they seem to get their licence very easy and their driving sometimes God help all on the road.

Policy is excessive and no one in the country has such an excessive policy

I think there is no need for it. Its unnecessary for experienced drivers.

I agree with RBC removing the 3 years driving assessment test because I have been a licence holder for around 15 years now and never had a complaint from a passenger regarding my driving. There's no need of it really, only the drivers with complaints should take the test, majority of drivers are experienced.

I don't agree with the 3 year driving test. I am a safe driver. Customer safety comes first.

Costly and time consuming

I agree with the new proposal

We feel as taxi drivers we need to go through vigorous checks and feel that this is unnecessary for new drivers this is acceptable but feel drivers that have been driving for years and are safe drivers don't feel that this is needed.

I have been driving for 20 years (taxi)

If they have passed it first time, there is no need to do it again. Instead courses could be held in place to have more practise

This requirement should be remove as it can be hard for some taxi drivers to pass the exam again and it could be a matter of their future if they don't pass the exam. The could be made redundant. I can be a passion for them to have this job.

Should be removed. No need to have a test every three years. We take safety of the road and passengers very seriously. As the years pass we only get more experienced. "Instead licence holders will only have..." Agree with this statement. Thank you for considering amendments needed within the taxi trade and making necessary changes for drivers. We feel our voices are heard with changing environment and challenges (financially, environmentally)

I believe and I think it is fair that new drivers and drivers who have driving complaints to take an assessment

I do not think a driving assessment test every three years is necessary

I agree with the proposal above as it makes sense to retest only as a result of a complaint if requested and at the discretion of the Licensing Committee. It is in the drivers own interest that they comply and adhere to the regulations and road safety as they are providing a service to the public and it is their livelihood and peoples lives there are in jeopardy if they do not.

It seems fair

I have been doing taxis for 20 years and never had a complaint about my driving.

Comments received from those answering NO to the main consultation question above:

I have been driving hackney carriage for 30 years and after so many years of experience I have no issue or complaint. I prefer to not participate with the assessment

I don't agree because test was done before already cost too much paying renew badge licence MOT

I do not agree with this proposal as I feel it is unfair on drivers like myself who have been performing this job with no driving convictions. I passed my driving test on 02/12/1974 and started my taxi profession in 1978 - present. I feel that drivers who have had driving convictions should have further driving assessment tests and not drivers like myself with a clean record.

Its unnecessary, especially when every driver has passed their practical driving assessment through DVSA which is a very thorough test set by the Government. I believe it is not really justified and does indeed serve very little purpose. To my knowledge no other Council in the whole of the UK undertakes this type of assessment, it is a waste of time for the Council and driver and also a waste of money

I would like to ask the Redditch Borough Council what practical purposes does this assessment have? Every taxi driver has passed their practical driving test set by the Government. The DVSA practical test is not easy by any means. Every taxi driver has the knowledge and skills required to carry out their job. This assessment is a complete waste of time and money (for both the Council and drivers) and insulting. I really don't see any point of it, in fact it seems very unfair and not justifiable.