

VEHICLE INSPECTION EVENING
2nd DECEMBER 2011

On Friday 2nd December 2011 Officers of Worcestershire Regulatory Services Licensing team in conjunction with Officers from VOSA (Vehicle Operator Services Agency) and West Mercia Police carried out a joint Enforcement exercise to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, byelaws and conditions set down by the Council.

Worcestershire Regulatory Services Licensing Officers attended a briefing beforehand at Crossgates Depot the Council's Vehicle testing garage with Officers from VOSA and West Mercia Police.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles were inspected on the roadside with a total of 24 vehicles being selected for further inspection at Crossgates Depot by VOSA.

The Exercise resulted in 0 immediate and 7 delayed prohibition notices being issued by VOSA. Immediate prohibition notices are served where the vehicle is found to be in a dangerous condition. Delayed prohibition notices are issued when the fault relates to mechanical defects which would only usually be identified during inspections by a trained mechanic.

One vehicle could have been seized for no Road Tax and two others could have been issued with fixed penalty notices and points on their DVLA driving licenses for bald tyres. (Unfortunately VOSA needed the Police to enable DVLA licenses to be checked prior to the issue of these points and the Police were unable to undertake this as they were called away from the exercise in the course of their duties).

One of the Hackney Carriage Vehicles was suspended by WRS Officers, for radiator damage, the meter not working and various other minor defects.

There were various other infringements of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Conditions, hardly any Hackney Carriage Vehicles were carrying the tariff card, roof signs were not lit up and one driver admitted to sharing his with another driver. Plates were displayed incorrectly and some Private Hire Vehicles had the word "Taxi" on them which is illegal. Some vehicles did not have no smoking signs and one driver was observed smoking inside the vehicle.

Feedback from West Mercia Police and VOSA indicates that the event was very useful and these agencies would like to take part in more exercises in the future.

Appendix 2

**Redditch Taxi Enforcement
Exercise Results – Friday 2 December 2011**

Hackney Carriage or Private Hire	External Plate	Meter sealed	Roof Signs	Other Defects	VOSA Defects
H	OK	Not sealed	No Light		
P	OK	OK	No Light	Caught by SA Smoking in Vehicle. Drivers view obscured, front bulb out, Oil Leak, Seat Squab broken, Radio Insecure The word "Taxi" Displayed, no "advanced bookings only" signs	Delayed Prohibition for oil leak, bulbs and impaired vision
H	In rear window obscuring high level brake light	OK	No Light	Advised front tyres wearing low	
H	OK	OK	No Light	Meter insecure, needs no smoking signs	
H	OK	OK	No Light		
H	OK	OK	No Light	Bald tyre	Delayed for bald tyre
H	In rear window obscuring high level brake light	OK	No Light or roof sign !!	Bald rear tyre	Delayed for Bald Tyre, and tyres of differing sizes on same axle
P	In Rear Window	N/A	N/A	Worn seats, needs no smoking signs	
H	OK	OK	No Light		
H	In Rear window	OK	No Light		
H	In Rear Window	Not Sealed	No Light	Advised front tyre levels getting low	
H	OK	OK	No Light, sign was in the boot and put it on upon arrival.		

Appendix 2

H	OK	Not sealed	No Light		
H	OK	OK	No Light		
H	OK	OK	No Light		
H	OK	OK	No Light		Delayed for excessive emissions
H	OK	OK	No Light	Meter wiring insecure, use of choc blocks and household wiring.	
H	OK	Not Sealed	No Light		
P	OK	N/A	N/A		
H	OK	OK	No Light	Drivers seat holed to bear structure	Delayed for split CV Gaiter
H	In Rear window	Not Sealed	No Light		
H	In Rear Window	OK	No Light, sign in the boot not on vehicle		
H	OK	OK	No Light	Number plate light out,	Delayed due to Fuel; Leak
H	In rear window	Meter not even working!!	No Light or roof sign	Suspended by SG immediately, meter not working, NO ROAD TAX, Rear side light out, Radiator damage, Wing Mirror damage, Wiring, Holes in centre console and doors etc	