

LICENSING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 11 September 2018 at 7.30 pm
Council Chamber - Civic Centre

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any matters on the agenda.
3. Minutes (Pages 2 - 4)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2018.
4. Matters Arising
5. Written Questions and Petitions
6. Committee Work Plan (Page 5)
7. Use of Roof Signs on Private Hire Vehicles (Pages 6 - 95)
8. References from Other Committees

Any references arising from meetings held after the publication of this agenda will be circulated separately.
9. Matters of Urgent Business

To deal with any matters of an urgent nature.

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

10 July 2018

7.30 - 8.25 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Edna Stevens (Chair)
Councillor John Strachan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ian Beckett
Councillor Nick Churchill
Councillor Michael Garnett
Councillor Andrew Johnson
Councillor Lanie Shears

Officers

Michael Pitt, Environment and Licensing Manager
Dimple Roopchand, Assistant Solicitor
Denise Westwood, Junior Legal Assistant
Jo Maskell, Governance Support Officer

APOLOGIES

Councillor Karen Clempner
Councillor Tony Hall
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

4. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

5. **COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

The Committee received its proposed work plan for the current municipal year.

Members of the Committee requested a copy of the consultation document on private hire roof signs, prior to a report on the results being submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

It was noted that the lifespan of the Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy had been extended from three to five years and therefore the review was not due until 2020.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the work plan is noted;
- (b) a copy of the consultation document on private hire roof signs be sent to all members of this Committee, together with a list of the consultees when the consultation commences;
- (c) a report on the “Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policy” be deleted from the work plan.

6. **REVIEW OF GAMBLING ACT POLICY**

The Committee received a report on the proposed replacement Statement of Gambling Act Policy which, following a twelve week consultation period, was due to be reviewed and published by January 2019.

Members of the Committee raised their concerns about the potential proliferation of gaming machines, particularly in family oriented venues such as public houses. Therefore, they were keen to ensure that the policy made clear what the Council’s responsibilities were for licensing such machines under the Gambling Act; and that such licence applications were scrupulously and robustly considered.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the proposed replacement Gambling Act Licensing Policy (at Appendix 1 of the report) is approved for consultation subject to the following amendments:
 - (i) where appropriate in the document suitable emphasis be given to the Council’s role in licensing of gaming machines in public houses, clubs and similar venues;
 - (ii) the list of organisations at paragraph 6.3 be expanded to specifically include West Essex Alcohol & Drug Service and MIND West Essex;

- (b) further report is submitted to the Committee setting out any representations received to the consultation;
- (c) a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee on the current constitutional arrangements for delegations to Officers surrounding the issue of licences for premises where gambling takes place.

7. **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS 2017/18**

In line with its previously agreed procedures, the Committee received an annual report on its Licensing Sub-Committee's decisions during the 2017/18 municipal year.

It was agreed that training would be arranged for all members of the Committee (earlier in the evening of a Licensing Committee meeting) which would include training specifically for Licensing Sub-Committee issues.

Recently, a Councillor had had to be drafted in at the last minute for a Licensing Sub-Committee hearing, when one of the three members present had had to withdraw once they realised that the subject of the hearing was known to them. In order to prevent this kind of disruption to proceedings recurring, it was suggested that either the Licensing Sub-Committee membership should be increased from three to four members or a reserve member should be appointed on stand-by for each meeting.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the report is noted;
- (b) Officers be requested to consider the revision of membership arrangements for the Licensing Sub-Committee.

8. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

9. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

LICENSING COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2018/19

20 November 2018	
○ Review of Health & Safety Plan (49,23/1/18)	Michael Pitt
○ Review of Health & Safety Plan (49,23/1/18)	Michael Pitt
○ Gambling Act Policy Review [consultation outcome] (36,23/1/18)	Michael Pitt
○ Provision of 'reference wheelchair' friendly licensed vehicles (28, 21/11/17).	Michael Pitt
○ Local Area Profile - to be appended to Statement of Gambling Act Policy (36,24/1/17)	Michael Pitt
22 January 2019	
○ Private Hire Operator Conditions Review	Michael Pitt
○ Gambling Act Policy Review [Recommendation] (36,23/1/18)	Michael Pitt
12 March 2019	
○	
○	
Unallocated Items	
○ Constitutional arrangements for delegations to Officers surrounding the issue of licences for premises where gambling takes place (6,10/7/18)	Michael Pitt/Dimple Roopchand
○	
Standing Items	
○ Licensing Sub-Committee Decisions (Annual report to first meeting in the municipal year 6,9/7/13)	Michael Pitt

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

TITLE: USE OF ROOF SIGNS ON PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

LEAD OFFICER: MICHAEL PITT, ENVIRONMENT AND LICENSING MANAGER
(01279) 446114

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: DAVID TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER (LICENSING)
(01279) 446164

RECOMMENDED that:

- A** Members of the Licensing Committee consider this report and the public consultation and recommend to Full Council whether Private Hire Vehicle licencing conditions should be amended to allow Private Hire Vehicles to display roof signs in accordance with one of the options set out in this report at paragraph 10 and Appendix B.
- B** Should the Committee determine to recommend a specification for roof lights or signs to be displayed by Licensed Private Hire Vehicles, authority be delegated to the Chair of Licensing Committee in consultation with the Environment and Licensing Manager to approve the specification to be recommended.

BACKGROUND

- 1 A special meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 15 March 2018 resolved that consultation should take place to inform a decision as to whether to further modify the Council's Vehicle Standards Condition regarding roof signage on private hire vehicles and that any complaints made about signs on private hire vehicles be collated.
- 2 Harlow Council licenses private hire vehicles through a licensing system established by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The system allows the licensing authority to attach conditions to vehicle licences.
- 3 Section 48 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states:
"A district Council may attach to the grant of a licence under this section such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this subsection, conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle to which the licence relates".

- 4 Section 64 (1) Transport Act 1980 states: *“There shall not in any part of England be displayed on or above any vehicle which is used for carrying passengers for hire or reward but which is not a taxi;*
(a) any sign which consists of or includes the word ‘taxi’ or ‘cab’ whether singular or plural or ‘hire’ or any words of similar meaning or appearance to any of those words, whether alone or part of another word; or
(b) any sign, notice, mark, illumination or other feature which may suggest that the vehicle is a taxi.”

In this legislation, “taxi” means Hackney Carriage.

It is clear from the wording of the law that roof signs on private hire vehicles are not in themselves illegal, but that certain words are prohibited.

- 5 The Courts have held that a roof sign bearing a telephone number did not contravene s64 of the 1980 Act in that the roof sign did not suggest that the vehicle was a taxi.¹ The Court preferred the view that the sign on the vehicle suggested that it was available for hire on a telephone call or that the sign was a means of identifying the vehicle to a caller. The case may be expected to have some influence on future judgements about the reasonableness of conditions prohibiting the display of any roof signs. James Button, a solicitor who writes works and extensively in this field states: “the argument against roof signs is usually that they will lead to confusion in the minds of the public between private hire vehicles and hackney carriages, but, in certain areas, the argument is weakened. In districts where all hackney carriages have to be purpose built, whereas private hire vehicles are saloon cars, estate cars and people carriers, the distinction will be reasonably obvious. It is acknowledged that this argument about confusion would be much more apparent in an area where saloon type vehicles were licensed as hackney carriages”.
- 6 The most frequently-made argument for prohibiting or restricting roof signs on Private Hire Vehicles is that they will lead to confusion in the minds of the public between private hire vehicles and Hackney Carriages. It is important to avoid such confusion. However it may be argued that confusion is less likely in areas where all Hackney Carriages have to be purpose built. In Harlow, Hackney Carriages are required to be purpose built vehicles of the “London Cab” style.
- 7 Many local authorities have chosen to prohibit the use of roof signs on private hire vehicles, while a minority require that private hire vehicles display a roof sign; and some set out in conditions the information that must be shown on the sign. Current Harlow Council Private Hire Vehicle licensing conditions prohibit roof lights on private hire vehicles but say nothing about roof signs.
- 8 Further to the Committee’s resolution mentioned above, a consultation on roof signs was held between July 20 and August 24 2018.

A total of 35 responses were received. Abridged comments received during the consultation are reported below. Responses are available in full at Appendix A.

Question 1 *Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?*

- Persons from outside Harlow may be confused when PHV's display signs.
- PH vehicles should not display roof signs because they have door signs.
- Hackney Carriages licensed elsewhere are working in Harlow.
- It is impossible for a PH vehicle to be mistaken for a HC because Harlow has adopted 'mandatory orders'.
- HDC allows Operators licensed by Harlow to operate vehicles from other areas.
- The operation in Harlow of HC vehicles licensed elsewhere means that HC vehicles are not clearly distinguishable from PH vehicles.
- The display of roof signs on PH vehicles is in direct contravention of the Transport Act S64.
- Roof signs confuse and mislead.
- Advertisements on chauffeured vehicles would damage business.
- Signs on chauffeured vehicles would damage their image.
- The law requires that taxis and PH vehicles be distinguishable.
- Roof signs are synonymous with taxis.
- Roof signs are a global symbol of a vehicle available for immediate hire.
- PH vehicles licensed by Harlow are indistinguishable from taxis licensed elsewhere.
- In busy areas, customers may approach a PH vehicle displaying a roof sign.
- Harlow PH vehicles are unmistakable from London style HC vehicles.
- Yellow roof signs with the words 'pre-booked only' would avoid confusion.
- Putting this issue out to public consultation is unhelpful.
- Best practice guidance (published by DfT) should be considered.
- Roof signs are not seen as best practice.
- Even a blank roof sign may cause a person to believe that the vehicle is a taxi.
- The two trades are different.
- Roof signs are pointless.
- Customers going out of the station may see PH vehicles with roof signs and assume they are taxis.
- It is the responsibility of Harlow Council to avoid confusion.
- Roof signs should be side facing.
- Signs should not be illuminated.
- Signs should be large enough to allow them to be read from distance.
- There should be a clear difference in appearance between HC and PH vehicles.
- Roof signs are associated with vehicles for immediate hire.
- Metro roof signs make the vehicle look like a taxi.
- Members of the public may be confused because they do not know the

difference between PH and taxis.

- Some seven-seat PH vehicles may be mistaken for a HC vehicle.
- Customers have been seen to approach PH vehicles fitted with Metro roof signs.
- The matter has already been decided in the Magistrates Court.
- Roof signs make private hire vehicles look like taxis.
- Harlow Council does not appear to have the resources to deal with touting.
- There should be no confusion between a PHV and HC.
- No enforcement of (conditions) for vehicles licensed by other authorities.
- Roof signs had height which will make it difficult to enter car parks (minibuses).
- Roof signs (on PHV's) are completely pointless.
- Other towns have a mixed fleet.
- There should be a clear difference between taxi and PHVs.
- The public need to know what they are getting into.
- A roof sign means I'm for hire which they are not.
- Metro signs make (a PHV) look like a taxi.
- Customers have approached PHV's with roof signs and asked whether they were for hire.
- Local towns that have salon cars as HCs have roof signs but PHVs do not
- The introduction of signs on PHVs has led to touting and a loss of income to the HC trade.
- Drivers with roof signs have been seen touting in Harlow.
- Customers believe that PHV's may be hailed.
- Customers are at risk (when entering a PHV) from drivers who feel that they can take a fare.
- Roof signs could be removed and placed on non-licensed vehicles thus placing potential customers at risk of assault, taxis have purpose built (integrated) signs.
- Roof signs should only be put on Hackney Carriages.
- The only reason for a roof sign is when plying for hire.
- PH customers receive a text when their pre-booked vehicle arrives at their address.
- Historically roof signs were introduced for HC so that they could be seen by the public and hailed.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

- Roof signs should be uniform.
- Roof signs should not use the word 'Taxi' (this would be illegal).
- Roof signs should not be illuminated.
- Roof signs should be same size and colour.
- The trade were informed that the signs would be free and voluntary.

- In would be unreasonable and inequitable for signs to be mandatory.
- There has been a previous court judgement on this matter.
- Advertisement would damage business (chauffeur).
- Roof signs would damage our image.
- If roof signs are introduced then they should be mandatory and provide clear uniform identification.
- At present the PH trade is muddled and confusing.
- Roof signs have increased safety, efficiency and recognition.
- The authority should be proud of a service that the community can easily notice.
- If mandatory the condition should be placed on the operator and not the driver.
- Operators should be permitted to brand with their colours and absorb the cost.
- The driver should display a sign provided by their operator.
- All conditions by definition are mandatory.
- In law you cannot make this mandatory and should remain voluntary.
- Lettering and consistent standards should be adopted.
- Drivers have stated that they are doing more illegal work with signs.
- The present situation is confusing.
- Logic dictates that the Council should decide on the form of signage.
- Roof signs are the wrong course of action and will endanger public safety.
- Mini busses are tall and may be unable to enter certain car parks due to height restrictions.
- Private hire vehicles should not have roof signs.
- If introduced, they should be mandatory.
- At present we have Hackney Carriages, PHVs with roof signs and PHVs without roof signs. Some PHVs with signs and some without causes confusion.
- Roof signs should not be introduced on PHVs.
- Signs on PHVs make them a target for thieves.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

- If permitted PHVs should display 'pre-booked only' no telephone number and not illuminated.
- Other authorities that permit roof signs do not usually have a mixed fleet.
- If permitted, councillors should decide the wording and not officers or operators.
- References are made to court decisions.
- Advertisement would damage our business and potential earnings (chauffeur).
- Irrelevant; if made a condition you (the Council) you decide type, size and condition.
- Yes, that's the responsibility of the licensing department.
- Yes, signs displayed by (a Harlow Licensed Operator) are deliberately similar

to signs displayed on Hackney Carriages licensed by other authorities.

- Roof signs should not be coloured orange or yellow.
- All roof signs should be same type and colour.
- Signs now being used make a PHV look like a taxi.
- The position of all signs should be uniform.
- Signs should be large enough to be read at distance and not be illuminated.
- Colour should not allow vehicle to be confused with Hackney Carriage.
- Uniformity is important for ease of identification.
- Signs should have black lettering on white background in the centre of the roof.
- Colour and size is important.
- Uniformity is important , there should be a clear difference between HC and PHVs.
- Roof signs should not be introduced.
- They should be all the same.
- They should be clear to ensure a customer does not take an uninsured journey.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

- Roof signs should display 'pre-booked only'.
- Not be illuminated.
- Vehicle licence details should be displayed on the back.
- Sign should display operator, phone number and licence conditions.
- The question is designed to bulk out and confuse.
- Harlow should honour and accept a court recommendation.
- Regards should be had to the Law Commission report regarding national standards (no national standards have been published).
- More details are welcome but (signs) will still create confusion and public risk.
- Be as large as possible and contain the words 'pre-booked'.
- (Signs) blur the lines between PH and HC.
- It would be a mistake to introduce roof signs.
- PHVs are deliberately parking in prominent parts of the town encouraging customers to hire them
- HC have roof signs, PHV's have door signs
- Members of the public won't read signs, they look the same as other towns locally and nationally where saloon cars are used as Hackney Carriages PH vehicles should not have roof signs.
- Don't introduce them, this would be abused and cause confusion.
- The wording is very important and show the public what the vehicle is.

OPTIONS

9. The legislation allows the licensing authority to attach to the grant of a licence such conditions as they consider reasonably necessary including conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle. All such conditions are subject to appeal. Being able to demonstrate clear reasons for decisions to apply conditions that are relevant to the legislation would be important to the Council should it be required to defend an appeal.
10. The options open to members of the Licensing Committee are set out in Appendix B. If members of the Licensing Committee consider that licensing conditions should be amended to take account of the issues raised in the consultation, they will wish to advise Full Council whether roof signs on private hire vehicles should be
 - prohibited,
 - permitted, or
 - required;

and if roof signs or lights are to be permitted or required, to advise whether the Council should specify how they are to be displayed and the information to be shown on any such signs.

IMPLICATIONS

Place (includes Sustainability)

As contained within the report.

Author: **Michael Pitt on behalf of Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

Finance (Includes ICT)

None specific.

Author: **Andrew P Smith, Finance Manager on behalf of Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

Housing

None specific.

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

Community Wellbeing (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None specific .

Author: **Brian Keane, Managing Director on behalf of Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

Governance (includes HR)

As set out in the report.

Author: **Amanda Julian Legal Services Manager on behalf of Colleen O'Boyle, Interim Head of Governance**

Appendices

Appendix A - Responses to public Consultation on Roof Signs

Appendix B - Options for Roof Sign Conditions

Appendix C - Collated Complaints to the Licensing Team Concerning Display of Roof Signs by PHV

Background Papers:

1. *Yakhya v Tee* 1984, referred to in Local Authority Licensing and Registration Encyclopaedia, Sweet and Maxwell

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

PH	Private Hire
PHV	Private Hire Vehicle
HC	Hackney Carriage
HDC	Harlow District Council

Appendix A

Responses to Public Consultation on Roof Signs

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Historically Roof Signs were introduced for Hackney Carriage so they could be seen by the public and hailed down. To have roof signs on a private hire vehicle could confuse the public into thinking they could hail the vehicle. PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES ARE NOT INSURED FOR THIS PURPOSE WHICH COULD CAUSE A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a condition for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

YES

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

YES

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

YES

THESE SIGNS WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE BIG ENOUGH TO HAVE THE ABOVE INFORMATION THAT IT COULD BE READ BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BEFORE HAVING IT DOWN THINKING IT IS A TAXI

1)

Hackney
Hire

34

Question .

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

It would & does cause confusion with the Public. The only reason for a roof sign is whether the cab is plying for hire at a rank, or being hailed by the public. Private Hire are pre booked the customer receiving a text from the Cab Company when the cab arrives at their address & what vehicle it is. ^{TAXI} Sign is ^{Black Cab} well known.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Yes.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Yes.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Obviously not illuminated. ?

Pre-booked only written on
Sign, Name of the company

Contact details

With plate etc. There would be
no confusion between PH & Hackney Carriage.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe that ~~visitors to Harlow~~ displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Yes they can be confused. Roof signs are a globally recognised symbol that a taxi is available to hire.

Visitors to Harlow are particularly vulnerable to confusion as their local transport could be different and may think PHV's with roof signs are also Hackney Carriage vehicles. The sign is important and not the wording on it.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a condition for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

If roof signs were introduced as a condition then yes they should be mandatory. Some PHV's with roof signs and some without caused confusion.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

To prevent confusion all signs should be the same for PHV's. Making a clear distinction between Hackney Carriage and PHV's

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes, roof signs should include 'pre book only' to make customers aware of how to obtain the vehicle

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

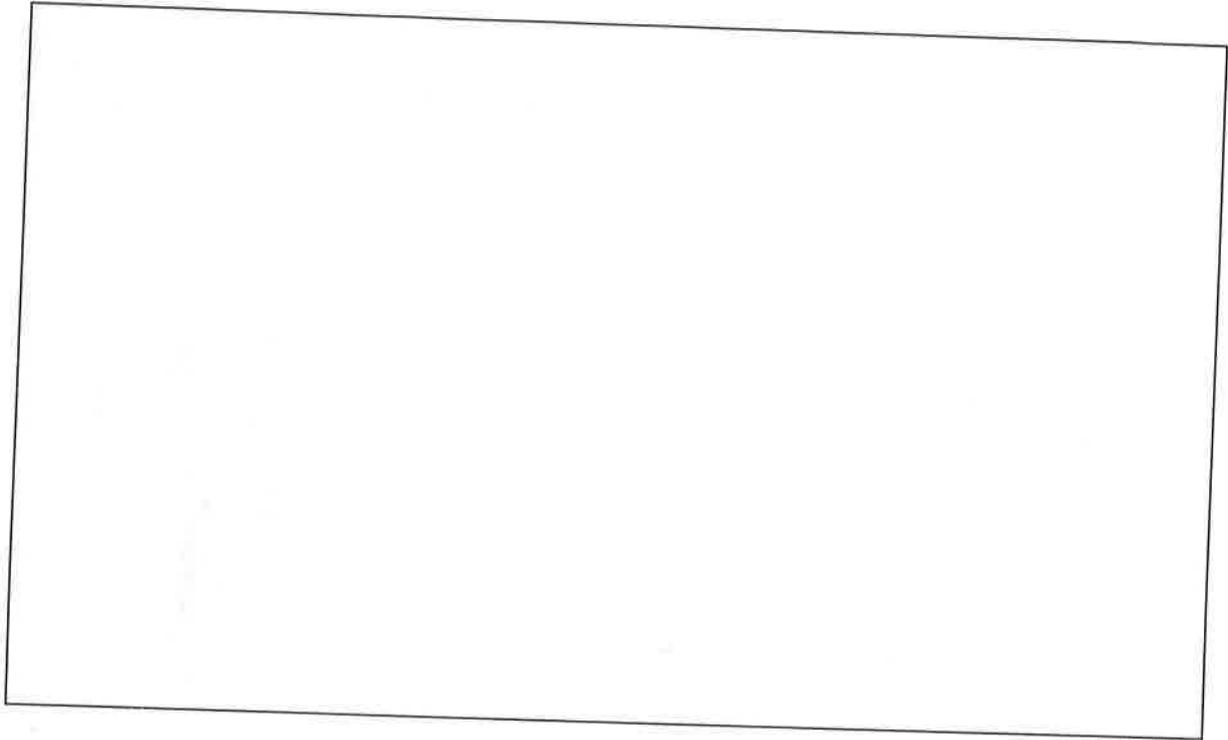
No. Roof Signs Should only
BE Put on HACKNEY CARRIAGE
TAXIS.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

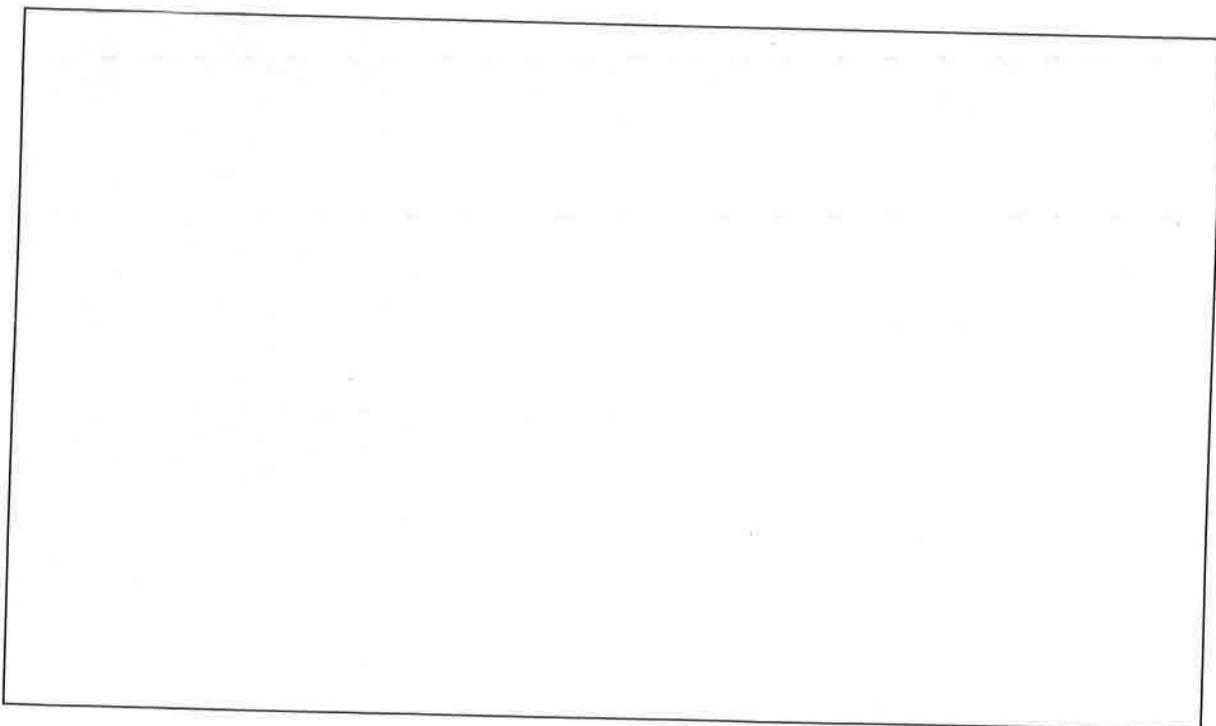
Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?



Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?



Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

I believe this could cause confusion to the public. Taxi roof signs are known to be a symbol of a Hackney Carriage taxi.

With a roof light on a Harlow PHV this I think will ~~not~~ cause confusion among the public

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Yes I believe so if mandatory.

Currently the public are probably confused as you could say there are 3 different vehicles driving around Harlow

Hackney carriage
PHV (with signs)
PHV (without signs)

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

There needs to be a clear difference between Hackney Carriage Signs and PHV Signs
~~Some~~ Something that PHV are (pre book only) on there roof Signs.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes

This wording is very important and will show the public what vehicle is (PHV) and what is Hackney Carriage.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

YES

ANYBODY COULD GET HOLD OF A ROOF SIGN, PUT IT ON A PRIVATE CAR, AND SIT OUTSIDE A CLUB. IF THEN A YOUNG LADY WERE TO GET IN THAT CAR SHE COULD BE ASSAULTED, ATTACKED OR WORSE.

ROOF SIGNS SHOULD BE USED ONLY BY PURBISHED LONDON TYPE TAXIS.

PC-11

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

YES

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

YES

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

DON'T INTRODUCE THEM, THIS WOULD BE
ABUSED AND CAUSE CONFUSION

RC

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

I Do believe private hire vehicles cause confusion displaying roof signs. Although there is no for hire sign on the light there is also no sign saying pre booked only.

A light on a vehicle to an uneducated customer could put that customer at risked from a ~~taxi~~ private hire driver who may feel he can take the fare.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

As said on question 1 I dont think they should be displayed

But yes they should be mandatory.

Writing should all be the same size. Pre booked only, Company name and phone number

So no confusion that vehicle is pre-booked only.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

YES

PRE BOOKED ONLY

Company Name

Phone Number.

It must be clear, to avoid confusion and stop customers getting or taking an uninsured journey.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes as mentioned above.

Pre booked only must be made apparently clear above all else.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

TAXIS NEED TO LOOK DIFFERENT TO A MINICAB. IF A PERSON COMES OFF A TRAIN THEY COME OUT THE DOORS THE FIRST CAB THEY SEE IS A MINICAB WITH A ROOF SIGN ON. THEY AUTOMATICALLY THINK THIS IS A TAXI AND THEY GO STRAIGHT OVER TO IT. 9 TIMES OUT OF TEN THEY GET IN IT.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

MAYBE THEY SHOULD BE MANDATORY BUT THEY DONT NEED THEM. BIG SIGNS SAYING METRO OR ABC SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

YES THEY SHOULD BE ALL THE SAME

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

OF COURSE. IT SHOULD ~~BE~~ SAY PRE-BOOKED ONLY SO IT DOESN'T CONFUSE THE CUSTOMER.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Yes

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Yes

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Yes

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Yes .

I believe could be need that .

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

If the PHVs have roof sign . that will not easy get confusion with the normal car .

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

I think this would be clear between
PHV's & Hackney Carriage.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes, PHV's with roof sign.
most important with pre book only.

Question 1

Please give your
displaying a roof

vehicle

Yes, private hire (PH) vehicles displaying a roof sign will, and have been confused with Hackney Carriage (HC). Every town that runs saloon cars as HC have roof signs and their PH cars do not. (IE Epping, Bishops Stortford, Hertford to name a few in the local area.) Visitors from out of town will, and do assume that roof-signed PH vehicles are HC - this has lead to touting by the PH vehicles and a loss of business to the HC trade.

As a PH driver without a roof-sign I have been approached several times by commuters at Harlow Station who have →

PTO Continued on back

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

PH Vehicles should NOT have roof signs.

Also, if they are made mandatory it makes the cars a target for thieves.

become verbally abusive towards me when I refuse to take them onwards without a pre-booking, as they have walked out of stations in other towns and straight into a roof-signed "normal car!"

Drivers that have roof-signs have been seen touting at Harbow Station and have also been wrongfully informing customers "Its ok to be picked up by this company now without booking because we are now the same as the black cabs" This has lead to Furthur confusion, customers believe all PH cars can be hailed. I have been trying to explain to customers that only cars that have the word "taxi," on their roof-sign can be legally hailed but this is not the information that these customers have been given by PH drivers with roof-signs. The customers are being told any car with a roof-sign can be hailed.

This is my First hand experiance of dealing with the confusion caused by some PH Vehicles having roof-signs in this town.

Question 3

If roof signage we
conditions relating

we impose
on?

PH Vehicles should not have
roof signs

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

PH Vehicles should not have
roof signs.

Question 1

Please give your view displaying a roof sign

le

I BELIEVE I (PH) IT ALREADY CAUSED
 CONFUSION, I OVER HEARD 3 PH DRIVERS
 DISCUSSING HOW THEY RETURN TO HARLOW
 TOWN STATION BECAUSE THEY NOW GET
~~THE~~ MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC APPROACH
 THEM AND IT KEEPS THE DRIVERS
 BUSY WHEAST WAITING FOR JOBS ON
 THE ~~NORMAL~~ OFFICE SYSTEM. THEY
 ALSO WERE DISCUSSING HOW THEY REGULARLY
 PICK UP FROM EPPING NOW THEY LOOK LIKE
 EPPING CABS.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

PH VEHICLES SHOULD NOT HAVE
 ROOF SIGNS

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

PH VEHICLES SHOULD NOT HAVE ROOF SIGNS AS IT MAKES THEM LOOK LIKE HACKNEY CARRIAGES.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

NO DONT BLUR THE LINES
H/C : ROOF SIGNS WITH TAXI ON
PH : DOOR SIGNS EXPLAINING PRE BOOK ONLY
NO ROOF SIGNS. MEMBERS OR PUBLIC WONT READ THEM JUST SEE THAT IT LOOKS THE SAME AS OTHER TOWNS LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY THAT LIKE SALOON CARS AS H/C.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

I have witnessed Customers at Harlow Town station approach a Metro Cab and asked if they was for hire, when told they were Private hire only the Customer replied that they thought they was a TAXI.

IN MY VIEW THIS MAKES IT VERY Confusing.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

NO - I DO NOT BELIEVE ROOF SIGNS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

I REFER you to my Answer to Question 2.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

AS I HAVE ALREADY STATED IT WILL BE A MISTAKE TO INTRODUCE ROOF SIGNS, METRO CARS ARE ALREADY BEING MISTAKEN FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND WITH NO ENFORCEMENT STAFF FROM THE COUNCIL TO STOP THEM SOME DRIVERS WITH ROOF SIGNS ARE DELIBERATELY PARKING IN PROMINENT PARTS OF THE TOWN. ENCOURAGING CUSTOMERS TO HIRE THEM.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

IF METRO and abc were to have
ROOF SIGNS IT SHOULD STATE CLEARLY
THAT THIS IS A PRE BOOKED ONLY
MINI CAB NOT A MINI CAB FOR HIRE.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

no

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

no

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

no

1
+
Ques

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

YES I THINK SOME 7 SEATER
MINI-CABS COULD BE MISTAKEN
FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

YES IT WOULD BE SAFER.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

YES

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

YES

Qu

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

A Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage very easily as members of the public do not know the difference between these 2 categories. This is the very reason why people can be seen trying to flag down a minicab which should be pre-booked.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Yes, so that it is uniform.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Yes, so that they can be easily differentiated against hackney carriages signs.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes, it should say pre-book only
The telephone number and the name of the operator can be added, but the licence holder details should be displayed inside the cab.

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

YES I BELIEVE THE METRO ROOF SIGN LOOKS ALOT LIKE A TAXI (HACKNEY CARRIAGE) HIRE SIGN THIS MUST BE CONFUSING TO THE PUBLIC.
EVEN MORE SO TO PEOPLE VISTING OUR TOWN FROM AREAS WHICH USE CARS NOT LONDON STYLE TAXIS AS HACKNEY CARRIAGES.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

I THINK IF THE INTRODUCTION OF ROOF SIGNAGE WAS INTRODUCED IT SHOULD BE MANDATORY.
HOWEVER FOR SOMEONE LIKE MYSELF WHO USES A 8 SEATER (LARGE VEHICLE) THE ROOF SIGN WOULD PRESENT PROBLEMS AS IT WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE HEIGHT OF MY VEHICLE AND MAKE SOME AREAS OF PLACES NON ACCESSIBLE.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Yes UNIFORMITY IS IMPORTANT THERE SHOULD
BE A CLEAR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HACKNEY
CARRIAGES AND PHV'S.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes "PRE BOOK ONLY" WOULD BE
SAFER AND HELP TO MAKE A CLEAR
DISTINCTION BETWEEN HACKNEYS AND PHV'S.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

THE PUBLIC NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE GETTING INTO, A ROOF SIGN TO THE PUBLIC MEANS IM FOR HIRE WHICH THEY ARE NOT.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

- ① YES MANDATORY
- ② CLEAR WORDING · PRE-BOOK ONLY

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

YES COLOUR OF SIGN AND SIZE
IS OF THE MOST IMPORTANCE.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

YES OF COURSE

Quest

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Yes It will as they look the same.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Yes

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Yes so people know the different companies.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes, absolutely.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

17

I believe that there should be a clear difference in appearance between taxis and PHV's.

The Taxi Roof sign is globally acknowledged symbol of a taxi and that the Taxi is available for hire, it is the sign that is important and not the wording on it.

The roof signs being used by Harlow's PHV's are very confusable with Hackney Carriage Taxis that work in other licensing areas close to us, and many visitors to the town confused by them and think that they are also in fact Hackney Carriage vehicles.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

if roof signs were introduced as a condition then yes they should be mandatory.

I feel you should be able to make a clear distinction between PHV's and Hackney Carriages.

At the moment we have 3 types of vehicle

Hackney carriages

PHV's (no roof sign)

(PHV's (with roof sign)

Some PHV's with roof signage and some without could create confusion.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Yes..

uniformity is important for ease of identification

for example if all PHV's where to have roof signage that read "PRE BOOK ONLY"

in black lettering on a white background all in the centre of the roof.

I think this would make a clear distinction between Hackney Carriage Vehicles and PHV's.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes, roof signs should include the word 'pre book only' and the vehicles licence details.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Yes I believe they do.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Yes they should.
Either they all have them or no one has them.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

yes signage should be different
from taxis.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

it should be a condition to show
pre book only.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

IT IS MY OPINION THAT ROOF SIGNS WILL LEAD TO CONFUSION BETWEEN PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

ROOF SIGNS SHOULD BE MANDATORY IF THEY WERE INTRODUCED.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

CONDITIONS SHOULD BE IMPOSED. THE SIGN'S SHOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO BE READ CLEARLY AT DISTANCE, SHOULD NOT BE ILLUMINATED, USE ANY COLOUR THAT COULD BE CONFUSED WITH HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND NOT CONTAIN WORDING THAT IS ASSOCIATED WITH HACKNEY CARRIAGES.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

THE SIGN'S SHOULD CLEARLY STATE PRE BOOKED ONLY, HAVE THE OPERATORS NAME PHONE NUMBER ETC.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

YES ANY NEW PATRONS TO HARLOW TOWN MAY
 HAVE COME FROM A TOWN / CITY WHICH
 HAS A MIXED FLEET SYSTEM. AT PEAK TIMES
 THE AWAITING BLACK TAXIS ON A RANK MAY
 HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE
 EXITED THE STATION FIRST THE NEW
 CUSTOMERS MAY SEE THESE PHV'S WITH
 ROOF SIGNS STRAIGHT AHEAD AND ASSUME
 THESE PHV'S ARE TAXIS
 THESE ROOF SIGNS COULD BE SIDE
 PLACING SO YOU KNOW WAY OF KNOWING
 WHAT IS DISPLAYED ON IT. ITS HARLOW COUNCILS
 RESPONSIBILITY TO AVOID THIS CONFUSION.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

NO PHV'S SHOULD NOT HAVE ROOF SIGNS.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

See Q2.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

See Q2.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

hotmail.co.uk

Yes it would, completely pointless

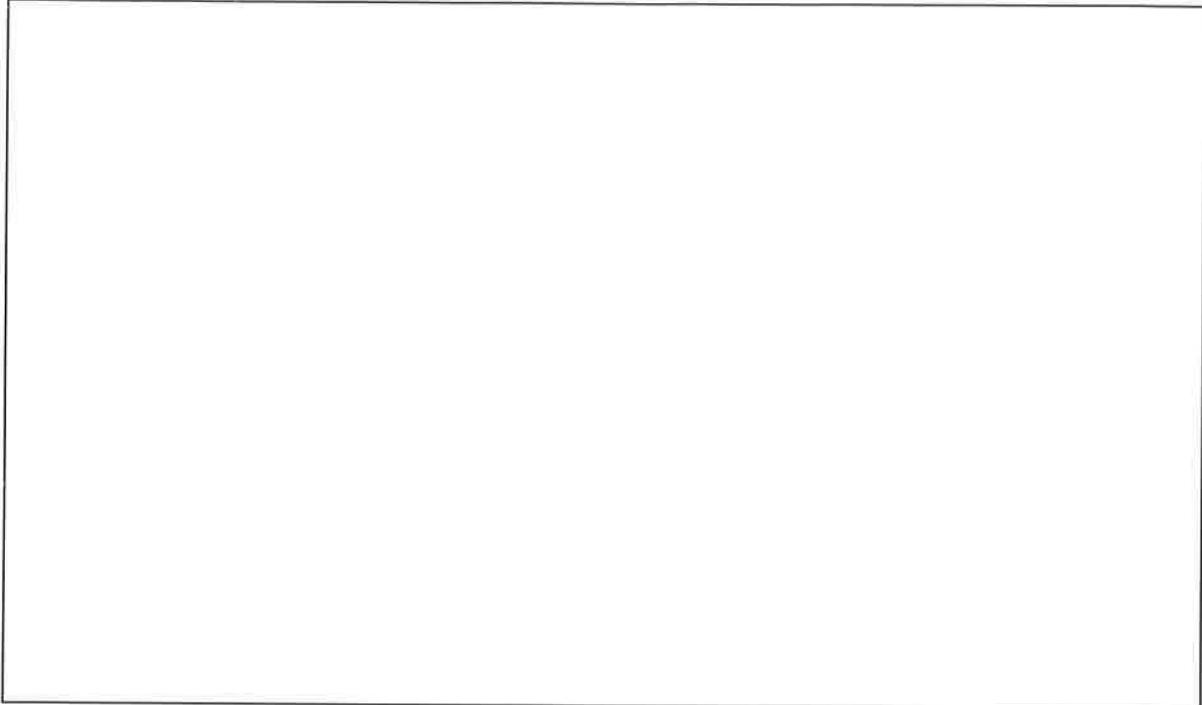
Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

No, We run minibuses, they would make it impossible to fit into car parks. Also we are not Hackney carriage drivers.
It would blur the line between the two.

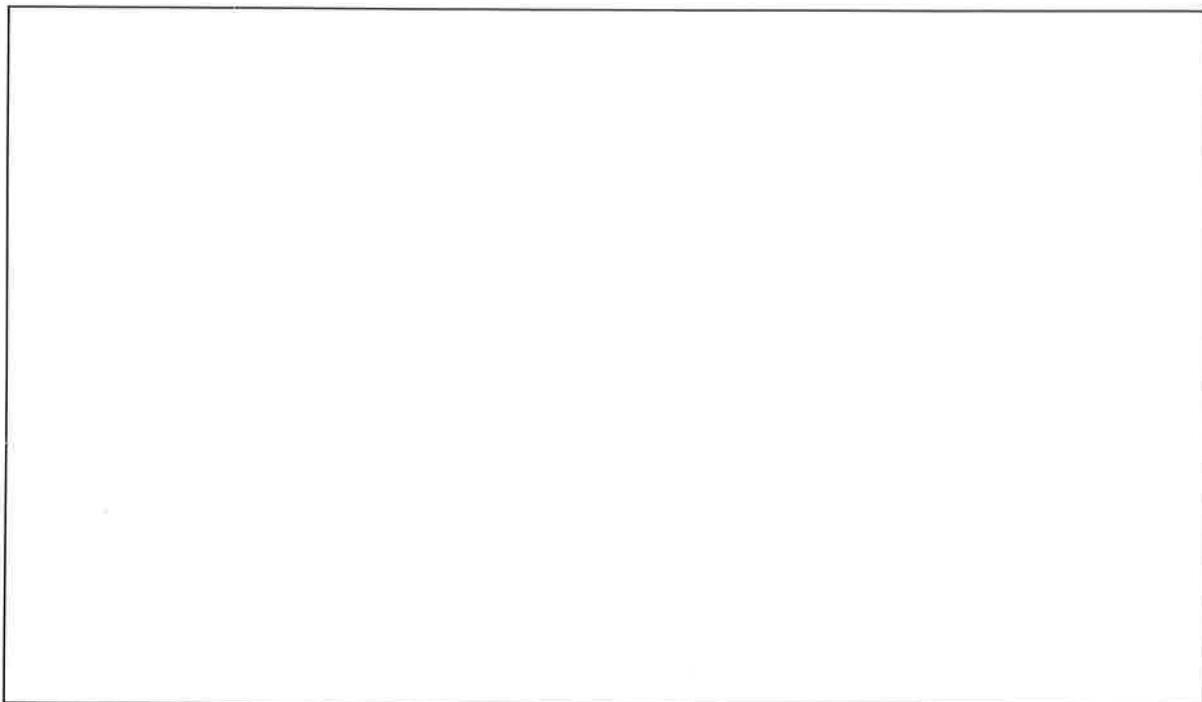
Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?



Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?



Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Yes it is very confusing it is two different Trades for a reason.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

NO, AS THE CO-OWNER OF A SMALL MINI BUS COMPANY HAVING THESE SIGNS WOULD IMPLIET ME PICKING UP IN SOME OF THE CAR PARKS IN TOWN, THE SIGNS WOULD HIT.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

See question 2

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

See question 2

(1)

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

My view on whether I believe a private hire vehicle displaying a roof sign would be confusing with a Hackney Carriage is that it does, as it states in the local authority statement on definition of the two trades there should be no confusion. Even displaying a blank roof sign will still indicate the saloon car may be a "Taxi". As we have a problem with cross border hire nationwide, we may find introduction of roof signs for p/h vehicles in Harlow might worsen the situation as these cars will blend in with Harlow cars and no enforcement is active, out of town vehicles have been caught not complying with licence conditions.

(Please continue separate sheet.)

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a condition for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

If roof signage were introduced as a condition for private hire vehicles the display of roof signs should be mandatory. I believe any roof sign is the wrong course of action as it creates confusion and risks public safety, but if introduced at least everyone should comply to the same conditions. What are the benefits for not being mandatory and having a two-tier private hire sector? How many vehicles can't comply with this? What is the percentage of private hire drivers for/against this?

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Again if roof signage were to be introduced for private hire vehicles the only way to impose control, a high standard and limit confusion and risk to public is for all roof signs to be same type for both companies, same colour, same type and the same size.

At the moment operator metro are displaying yellow roof signs. This looks like a "Taxi" with taxi design esp when ranking up down the station.

I would also like to see and feel if agreed roof signs acceptable they all need to be positioned on the vehicle the same i.e. front side above driver side or at the back middle.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

If a condition permitting roof signs was allowed, the more details emphasizing the vehicle is private hire will be better but will still create confusion/risk to public.

If agreed I feel the sign should be the biggest it can so using the words pre booked only is clearer and looks different to small taxi signs used by other local Authority. A telephone number and name of operator would benefit and show where car came from. Also private hire holders details i.e. car number should be clear and large.. I would also suggest enlarging the signage on door i.e. pre book only, number larger and maybe the coat of arms of Harlow to promote the town.

Question one:

At the moment we have a few drivers from surrounding areas ^{working} within the Harlow district for the private Hire trade. This creates confusing and risk to the public. When they wait for work down the station passengers approach them. Too many vehicles wait down station, Terminal street and playhouse ranks touting for work. pictures have been forwarded before, will this make the situation worse especially with little or no enforcement within the Harlow district. London states all vehicles outside "met" district no roof signs should be allowed on private hire vehicles above the door.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

As the original petitioner against Private hire having roof lights, it's my opinion & one that I think was shared at the original hearing, with this issue putting it out to public consultation would be unhelpful, as it's the public confusion that Private hire roof lights create is the crux of the issue. Hence it not being seen by government guidance as "best practice" I'd like to draw your attention again to a paragraph I mentioned in support of our petition.

"Another approach is a requirement for a roof mounted, permanently illuminated sign with words such as 'pre-booked only'. But it can be argued that ANY roof-mounted sign, however unambiguous its words, is liable to create confusion with a taxi. So roof mounted signs on PHV's are not seen as best practice". I also enclose underneath a transcript of what I said at the original hearing.

Good Evening, firstly I'd like to thank you all for letting us voice our concerns over the use of roof signs by some of the private hire trade. One of the most common things I hear when our respective trades are discussed is "they all do the same job" However it's not as simple as that, but does come down to two similar but different words. "Hail" & "Hire" With A Taxi, the customer doesn't wait, the driver does, & is therefore available for "immediate hire" at places such as the station. Whereas Private Hire, is just that, the vehicle needs to be pre-booked & is uninsured if this is flouted.

The Hackney Carriage trade has, I hope you agree a good working "partnership" with the council, & we are respectful of the role of licensing. To give you an example, a couple of years ago, some of our taxis started having advertising strips down the side of the cab or "full all over wrap" when this idea was initially mooted, we sought assurance with licensing as to whether this was acceptable.

I'm Sure by now, most of you will have seen the Metro roof signs in question, at various times driving around the town. These were brought in solely by the owner of Metro cars, it is my belief that most of the private hire drivers are against them, especially if made compulsory. our contention is they cause these vehicles from the publics perception to be seen as Taxis, as most neighbouring authorities, & around the country other councils have saloon type vehicles as Taxis, unlike Harlow, which we can all pride ourselves on having a 100% disabled access fleet of taxis. There have already been instances reported of these lights being illuminated & Private hire vehicles parked/waiting on designated Taxi ranks. Our fear is this will likely escalate.

I wont bore you with too much legal Jargon, but will draw you the best practice guidance, which I have a copy should anyone wish to see it, that states; "Another approach is a requirement for a roof mounted, permanently illuminated sign with words such as 'pre-booked only'. But it can be argued that ANY roof-mounted sign, however unambiguous its words, is liable to create confusion with a taxi. So roof mounted signs on PHV's are not seen as best practice". Unlike our approach mentioned earlier, the proprietor of Metro cars has sought to undermine this committee by adopting a rather gung-ho attitude of "I've fitted them, what are you going to do about it?" our request is a similar one, although far more polite I hope. Given this cavalier attitude displayed & the best practice guidance, will you please consider their removal?

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

ABSOLUTELY, IT FOLLOWS LOGICALLY THAT SHOULD THE COUNCIL IMPOSE A LICENSING CONDITION, IT SHOULD HAVE A REMIT TO DECIDE WHAT FORM THE SIGNAGE SHOULD TAKE

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

YES SAME REASONS AS QUESTION 2

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

PRE BOOK ONLY SHOULD BE MANDATORY
ANYTHING ELSE WOULD MERELY ADD AT FIRST
GLANCE WOULD GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF THE
VEHICLE BEING AVAILABLE "FOR HIRE"



Question 1 Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

The definitions of Private Hire and Taxi as provided by Harlow Council fail to take into account Hackney Carriage Vehicles operated by surrounding areas i.e Epping. These vehicles tend to be saloon vehicles with a roof sign showing the word TAXI.

Metro cars appear to have many of these vehicles operating within the town as PHVs. So we are now in a position where the residents of Harlow are becoming accustomed to PHVs displaying roof signs with the word TAXI whilst some have a roof sign showing the company name. Surely this must lead to confusion. I have also witnessed on many occasions these vehicles touting within the town. As Harlow Council don't appear to have the resources to deal with touting then to protect the public No Roof signs should be allowed.

The law states that there should be a clear difference in appearance between PHVs and Taxis . Roof signs are synonymous with taxis. Harlow PHVs with roof signs are indistinguishable from other saloon car TAXIs from surrounding areas and therefore the many locals and visitors to the town when met with Saloon cars displaying different roof signs close to Hackney Carriage ranks are often confused and approach these vehicles.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Yes. At present we have a very confusing PHV trade approach.

Metro drivers have confided in me that they are now doing more illegal work as a result of their roof signs .

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Yes. The current roof signs displayed by Metro cars are very deliberately similar in appearance to the roof signs displayed by Hackney Carriage Saloon Cars licenced by surrounding areas.

Is anyone aware of this within the council? Roof signs should not be coloured yellow or orange and should not be illuminated for obvious reasons.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes all of the above.

And finally please ask yourself the question. Why are some councillors so pro the PHV trade. Why have they devoted so much time to this issue?

Public Consultation on Roof Signs fitted on Private Hire Vehicles

What is the Purpose of the Consultation?

At a special Licensing Committee on the 28 February 2018, it was agreed that a Consultation take place to seek views on roof signage on Private Hire Vehicles. Once the Consultation has closed, the responses will be analysed, and a report prepared for the Licensing Committee.

We would like to receive your views on this by asking that you complete the short consultation below.

Background:

The Council has a statutory duty to license Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles, both are regulated under statutory schemes.

In order to license vehicles, the Council must have regard to any statutory and best practice guidance when deciding our policies in regard to any conditions that we may set.

One of the main reasons we set conditions is to safeguard the fee paying public when using private hire services.

When making decisions about whether or not to permit roof signage on Private Hire Vehicles we need to ensure any signs are clear and do not confuse the fee paying public into believing that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage.

The following are the definitions for a Hackney Carriage and a Private Hire Vehicle.

A **'Hackney Carriage'** is a 'Taxi' and may pick up passengers from the street and 'rank-up' for immediate hire by passenger(s). These vehicles may only be driven by a person who holds a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence issued by the Local Authority. Hackney Carriages licensed by Harlow Council are 'London style vehicles' (mainly black cabs) and fitted with a roof sign bearing the words 'taxi'.

A **'Private Hire Vehicle'** has to be pre-booked through an 'Operator' who takes details of the proposed journey from the customer either in person, by telephone or through the internet. A private hire vehicle may not 'rank-up' and may not pick up customers from the street. These vehicles may only be driven by a person who holds a Private Hire Driver Licence issued by the Local Authority. In Harlow, Private Hire Vehicles are saloon, hatchback or estate vehicles. I.E. Skoda Octavia, Ford Focus, Ford Galaxy and similar models.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

I do not believe that roof signage on PHV's could be confused with a Hackney carriage vehicle. The signage clearly states the service the vehicle is licensed to provide; i.e. pre-booked journeys only.
Currently under Harlow Council rules the London style black cab is the only vehicle that can be licensed as Hackney Carriage vehicles. The Black cab trade also have signage advertising the service they provide i.e. "Taxi". One could argue that the black cab trade (hackney carriage) don't clearly define what service they provide i.e. Pick up from designated rank only or Hailed.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Absolutely NO! In law you can not make this Mandatory. This is not necessary and should remain voluntary. Licensing dept role in the licensing of roof signage is only to ensure that roof signage complies to set consistent standards ie size of lettering and wording of service vehicle provided.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Obsoletely Yes! That's clearly a responsibility of Licensing dept.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

I don't think you need to much information or to large a sign. Limit the information to
Pre - book journeys only
Private Hire Vehicle license number ###

Please send your responses by email or letter to;

Licensing Team
Harlow Council

The background to the to the consultation as presented by the committee is a misrepresentation of the history of roof signs decisions previously made. A magistrates court decided some time go that roof signs on PHV would be inappropriate for a variety of reasons. Despite this, Harlow council decided to allow one operator in Harlow to display roof signs without sanction and is now opening up a debate as to whether a roof sign should become a mandatory condition of vehicle licensing, by asking questions of the public, of which the public would have little or no knowledge of the ramifications their opinions would have on the PHV trade.

In answer to the questions posed by the council, which represent a questionnaire designed to elicit answers required by the council, rather than consultation with vested interests , I offer the following response:

1. Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Yes they would be, which is why the operator currently using roof signs is possibly using them. I quote from the Department of Transport 2010 best practice guidance:

a licence condition which requires a sign on the vehicle in a specified form. This will often be a sign of a specified size and shape which identifies the operator (with a telephone number for bookings) and the local licensing authority, and which also has some words such as 'pre-booked only'. This approach seems the best practice; it identifies the vehicle as private hire and helps to avoid confusion with a taxi, but also gives useful information to the public wishing to make a booking. It is good practice for vehicle identification for PHVs to include the contact details of the operator.

Another approach, possibly in conjunction with the previous option, is a requirement for a roof-mounted, permanently illuminated sign with words such as 'pre-booked only'. But it can be argued that any roof-mounted sign, however unambiguous its words, is liable to create confusion with a taxi. **So roof-mounted signs on PHVs are not seen as best practice.**

Best practice is quoted in the council's background to this consultation.

2. If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

All Conditions of PHV licensing are by definition mandatory, otherwise they would not be conditions, another point the public would be unaware of.

3. If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign.

Another irrelevance, as if you made it a condition, you would decide type size and condition.

4. If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Is this a suggestion that you would permit roof signs, but not make it a mandatory condition of the licence. If so then you are ultimately agreeing to allowing PHV to pose as "for hire" vehicles, because that would be the only reason for allowing roof signs.

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Within this authority the vehicle difference is unmistakable and considerably unlikely that a member of the public would mistake a private hire vehicle with a Yellow Metro roof sign stating "pre booked only" over a London Style Hackney Carriage vehicle as a licenced Hackney Carriage vehicle can only be a London style black cab within Harlow

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

The introduction of roof signs has enhanced the safety, efficiency, and noticeability of the service to our customers and the authority should be proud of a private hire service that the community can easily notice and depend on.

If the condition was made mandatory I feel it should be made a condition of the operator to provide roof signs and not the driver as the operator can 1 brand the sign to be company specific to colours etc. and 2 absorb the cost as a business

I believe it should be a condition of the operator and driver but in a way that the driver isn't imposed to have another cost.

"A licenced private hire vehicle should mandatorily display a roof sign provided by the operator they are working for"

A Private hire operator should mandatorily provide its operated Private hire Vehicle with a roof sign.

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign

Yes however Operators as a business will need to brand them and colour coordinate the roof signs accordingly for public recognition

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes its essential for the purpose of the roof sign itself to clearly show the operators name, telephone number and the words "Pre book only"

Public Consultation on Roof Signs fitted on Private Hire Vehicles

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

The law states that there should be a clear difference in appearance between taxis and PHV's as there is a clear difference in the services they both provide to the public.

Roof signs are synonymous with Taxis and are a globally acknowledged symbol of a vehicle that is for immediate hire, it is the sign that they see and not necessarily what is written on it.

Harlow PHV's with roof signs are indistinguishable from other saloon car Taxis that often come into town from other local licensing areas, and therefore the many visitors to the town when met with parked PHV's displaying roof signs outside railway stations and other busy areas will inevitably be confused and may approach them.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

If roof signs were introduced then yes they should be mandatory for all PHV's to provide clear uniform identification to assist the travelling public. At present we have a PHV trade that is muddled and confusing in appearance.

Question 3

If roof signage were introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to type, size and colour of any proposed sign?

Again uniformity is important for ease of identification and if introduced all roof signs should be of the same size, colour, and type.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Yes, roof signs should include the word 'pre book only' telephone number, operator and licence details.

Public Consultation on Roof Signs fitted on Private Hire Vehicles

What is the Purpose of the Consultation?

At a special Licensing Committee on the 15 March 2018, it was agreed that a Consultation take place to seek views on roof signage on Private Hire Vehicles. Once the Consultation has closed, the responses will be analysed and a report prepared for the Licensing Committee.

We would like to receive your views on this by asking that you complete the short consultation below.

Background:

The Council has a statutory duty to license Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles, both are regulated under statutory schemes.

In order to license vehicles, the Council must have regard to any statutory and best practice guidance when deciding our policies in regard to any conditions that we may set.

One of the main reasons we set conditions is to safeguard the fee paying public when using private hire services.

When making decisions about whether or not to permit roof signage on Private Hire Vehicles we need to ensure any signs are clear and do not confuse the fee paying public into believing that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage.

The following are the definitions for a Hackney Carriage and a Private Hire Vehicle.

A '**Hackney Carriage**' is a 'Taxi' and may pick up passengers from the street and 'rank-up' for immediate hire by passenger(s). These vehicles may only be driven by a person who holds a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence issued by the Local Authority. Hackney Carriages licensed by Harlow Council are 'London style vehicles' (mainly black cabs) and fitted with a roof sign bearing the words 'taxi'.

A '**Private Hire Vehicle**' has to be pre-booked through an 'Operator' who takes details of the proposed journey from the customer either in person, by telephone or through the internet. A private hire vehicle may not 'rank-up' and may not pick up customers from the street. These vehicles may only be driven by a person who holds a Private Hire Driver Licence issued by the Local Authority. In Harlow, Private Hire Vehicles are saloon, hatchback or estate vehicles. I.E. Skoda Octavia, Ford Focus, Ford Galaxy and similar models.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

Any form of advertisement would seriously damage our business, our clients would think twice about paying a premium, to be chauffeur driven in a Mercedes that has a roof sign, this is not the image that is expected from our clients, in turn this would have a devastating impact to our potential earnings. This applies to all 4 questions

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

Any form of advertisement would seriously damage our business, our clients would think twice about paying a premium, to be chauffeur driven in a Mercedes that has a roof sign, this is not the image that is expected from our clients, in turn this would have a devastating impact to our potential earnings. This applies to all 4 questions

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

Any form of advertisement would seriously damage our business, our clients would think twice about paying a premium, to be chauffeur driven in a Mercedes that has a roof sign, this is not the image that is expected from our clients, in turn this would have a devastating impact to our potential earnings. This applies to all 4 questions

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

Any form of advertisement would seriously damage our business, our clients would think twice about paying a premium, to be chauffeur driven in a Mercedes that has a roof sign, this is not the image that is expected from our clients, in turn this would have a devastating impact to our potential earnings. This applies to all 4 questions

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

I BELIEVE THIS QUESTION TO BE MISLEADING AS HARLOW HAS A MANDATORY ORDER THAT STATES ALL HARLOW HACKNEY CARRIAGE (TAXIS) HAVE TO BE A "LONDON TYPE VEHICLE" THEREFORE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A HARLOW PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE TO BE MISTAKEN FOR A HARLOW HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE.

THE ISSUE IS THAT HARLOW COUNCIL PERMITS HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES THAT IN APPEARANCE LOOK SIMILAR TO A HARLOW PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE ,ESPECIALLY BY THE OPERATOR BEING PERMITTED TO USE ROOF SIGNS, AS PHOTOGRAPHS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE IN JULY 2017 SHOW THEY CAN BE MISTAKEN FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE (TAXI) OPERATING WITHIN HARLOW BUT LICENSED BY ANOTHER AUTHORITY.

THEREFORE THEY ARE NOT " CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE" AND A BREACH OF THEIR CURRENT LICENSING CONDITIONS, BUT STILL BEING ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN THE HARLOW DISTRICT. DESPITE ALSO BEING IN BREACH OF SEC 64 (1)(ii) THE TRANSPORT ACT 1980 WHICH STATES CLEARLY "ANY SIGN,MARK,ILLUMINATION OR OTHER FEATURE, WHICH MAY SUGGEST THAT THE VEHICLE IS A TAXI THERE SHALL NOT BE DISPLAYED ON THE ROOF OF ANY VEHICLE WHICH IS USED TO CARRY FARE PAYING PASSENGERS FOR HIRE AND REWARD WHICH IS NOT A TAXI "

FOR THESE REASONS I NOT ONLY BELIEVE THEY ARE CONFUSING BUT MISLEAD THE VULNERABLE AND GENERAL PUBLIC IN HARLOW.

2
3
4

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION AT ANY COMMITTEE MEEETINGS ON THESE SIGNS BEING A CONDITION OF LICENCE OR BEING MANDATORY

IT IS A FACT THAT THE TRADE WERE INFORMED THAT THE SIGNS WOULD BE FREE AND VOLUNTARY THIS WAS IN THE SUBMISSIONS GIVEN AND ACCEPTED BY COMMITTEE IN JULY 2017

I ALSO BELIEVE IF ROOF SIGNS WERE MADE A CONDITION OF LICENCE OR MANDATORY THIS WOULD BE UNREASONABLE AND INEQUITABLE BASED ON A JUDGEMENT MADE BY HARLOW MAGISTRATES COURT 09/11/2009 CASE NUMBER O900480327

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HARLOW COUNCIL DID NOT CHALLENGE THIS DECISION

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

THERE ARE AUTHORITIES THAT PERMIT ROOF SIGNAGE THESE ARE USUALLY ONES THAT DO NOT OPERATE A MIXED LICENSED FLEET OR A COURT DECISION " MADE IN THAT COURT ON THAT DAY" THE CASES SET OUT DESIGN AND WORDING ON ROOF SIGNS AND SHOULD HARLOW COUNCILLORS VOTE THAT ROOF SIGNS ARE ACCEPTABLE THEN THEY SHOULD FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED IN COURTS OF LAW NOT BY LOCAL OFFICERS AND/OR OPERATORS

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

THIS IS A SLIGHT VARIATION ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION I BELIEVE TO BULK OUT AND CONFUSE BUT MY RESPONSE IS THE SAME
THERE HAVE BEEN COURTS OF LAW ON THIS ISSUE AND I FEEL THAT HARLOW COUNCIL SHOULD HONOUR AND ACCEPT A COURTS RECOMMENDATION
I WOULD ALSO BRING TO HARLOW COUNCIL ATTENTION THE LAW COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 43
SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES SHOULD FORM PART OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDS DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD IMPOSE REQUIREMENTS THAT AIM TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC ARE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

CLOSING DATE 24/08/2018

Public Consultation on Roof Signs fitted on Private Hire Vehicles

What is the Purpose of the Consultation?

At a special Licensing Committee on the 15 March 2018, it was agreed that a Consultation take place to seek views on roof signage on Private Hire Vehicles. Once the Consultation has closed, the responses will be analysed and a report prepared for the Licensing Committee.

We would like to receive your views on this by asking that you complete the short consultation below.

Background:

The Council has a statutory duty to license Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles, both are regulated under statutory schemes.

In order to license vehicles, the Council must have regard to any statutory and best practice guidance when deciding our policies in regard to any conditions that we may set.

One of the main reasons we set conditions is to safeguard the fee paying public when using private hire services.

When making decisions about whether or not to permit roof signage on Private Hire Vehicles we need to ensure any signs are clear and do not confuse the fee paying public into believing that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage.

The following are the definitions for a Hackney Carriage and a Private Hire Vehicle.

A '**Hackney Carriage**' is a 'Taxi' and may pick up passengers from the street and 'rank-up' for immediate hire by passenger(s). These vehicles may only be driven by a person who holds a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence issued by the Local Authority. Hackney Carriages licensed by Harlow Council are 'London style vehicles' (mainly black cabs) and fitted with a roof sign bearing the words 'taxi'.

A '**Private Hire Vehicle**' has to be pre-booked through an 'Operator' who takes details of the proposed journey from the customer either in person, by telephone or through the internet. A private hire vehicle may not 'rank-up' and may not pick up customers from the street. These vehicles may only be driven by a person who holds a Private Hire Driver Licence issued by the Local Authority. In Harlow, Private Hire Vehicles are saloon, hatchback or estate vehicles. I.E. Skoda Octavia, Ford Focus, Ford Galaxy and similar models.

Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

YES IT IS CONFUSING AND NO I DO NOT THINK THEY SHOULD ~~DISPLAY~~ DISPLAY ROOF SIGNS AS THEY ALREADY DISPLAY SIGNS ON THE SIDE OF THEIR VEHICLES

THEY HAVE ALREADY ALLOWED VEHICLES WHICH ARE REGISTERED IN OTHER AREAS AND ARE TAXIS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT FOR THAT AREA BUT ARE WORKING THE HARLOW PRIVATE HIRE CIRCUITS

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

YES IT SHOULD BE UNIFORMED AND NOT HAVE THE WORD "TAXI" DISPLAYED

IT SHOULD BE OF ONE SIZE AND COLOUR DISPLAYING "PRE BOOK ONLY" AND THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER.

ALSO IT SHOULD NOT HAVE A SWITCH TO LIGHT THE SIGN UP.

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

TMAA
PLEASE SEE NOTES ON QUESTION 2
PARAGRAPH 2 x 3

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

I REITERATE AN ROOF SIGNS ON
"PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES" SHOULD DISPLAY
"PRE BOOK ONLY" AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
AND NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE LIT UP.
THE COMPANY THEY WORK FOR SHOULD
BE DISPLAYED ON THE SIDES OF THERE
VEHICLES. THERE LICENCE DETAILS
ARE ON THE PLATE AT THE BACK AND ON
THERE DRIVERS LICENCE BADGE.

Please submit your responses before 24 August 2018. Send your responses by email or letter to:

Licensing Team
Harlow Council
The Water Gardens
Harlow, Essex.
CM20 1WG

licensing@harlow.gov.uk
01279 446005

Please include your name and address with your response

Privacy Notice

What information is the Council collecting?

The council is collecting comments on the use of roof signs on private hire vehicles from organisations and individuals. We ask that any respondent provide their name and address to validate their contribution.

How will this information be used?

The information will be used to enable the Council to gather public views and assist us to make a reasoned decision on our policies and procedures.

How long will your information be kept?

The Council will keep your information for not more than 6 months after the end of the Consultation.

Who will you share it with?

All personal information will be redacted from responses by the Licensing Team and responses will be presented to the Licensing Committee. Names and addresses will be redacted from the information placed in the public arena unless the person making representations expressly requests their details be made public.

Information will be lawfully processed in accordance with Article 6(1)(e) GDPR. The Council is not collecting sensitive personal information; if any is received it will be redacted and ~~not shared with anyone before being~~ destroyed. To view the Council's overarching privacy notice please visit <http://www.harlow.gov.uk/privacy-notice>

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Question 1

Please give your views on whether or not you believe a Private Hire Vehicle displaying a roof sign could be confused with a Hackney Carriage?

YES
people not from Harlow
at the station could be
confused.

Question 2

If we were to introduce roof signage as a conditions for Private Hire Vehicles should the display of roof signs be mandatory?

NO

Question 3

If roof signage were to be introduced for Private Hire Vehicles, should we impose conditions relating to the type, size and colour of any proposed roof sign?

YES!
as in question 4.

Question 4

If we were to introduce a condition permitting roof signs should the condition include details such as the vehicle is pre-book only, with the telephone number and name of the operator and, licence holder details?

YES
✓

Please submit your responses before 24 August 2018. Send your responses by email or letter to:

Licensing Team
Harlow Council
The Water Gardens
Harlow, Essex.
CM20 1WG

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Options for Roof signs conditions

Section 48 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states:

A district Council may attach to the grant of a licence under this section such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this subsection, conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle to which the licence relates.

Options: the following options are available to the Licensing Committee to recommend:

1. To prohibit the use of roof signs.
2. Take no action and continue to prohibit roof lights and allow the use of roof signs subject to obligations placed on persons by the Transport Act 1980 Section 64.
3. To allow the display of roof lights or signs
4. To require the display of roof lights or signs.

Should roof lights or signs be allowed or required, the Licensing Committee may wish to recommend a specification.

Conditions that might be recommended include:

1. No licensed private hire vehicle shall display a 'roof sign' on the roof, bonnet or boot.
2. A private hire vehicle shall at all times display a roof sign in accordance with the Council requirements specified below.

3. The size of the sign shall not be greater than Xmm long, Ymm wide and Zmm high.
4. The colour of the sign shall be (x) on the front and (y) on the back. [the sign may be required to comply with British Standards]
5. The sign shall only include the words (pre-booked only) (phone numbers) (name of company) (private hire vehicle)
6. The size of the font shall be not less than [to be specified]
7. The size of the font shall be not more than [to be specified]
8. The size of all numbers and letters shall be equal
9. Signs shall not be illuminated
10. Signs shall only be placed on the (front) (rear) (centre) of the vehicle roof.

Collated Complaints to the Licensing Team Concerning Display of Roof Signs by PHV

Date received	Date of incident	Complaint	PHV	Location	Complaint from
27/04/2018	26/04/2018	Display of roof sign	A	Town Station	Unite the Union
27/04/2018	26/04/2018	Display of roof sign	B	Town Station	Unite the Union
27/04/2018	27/04/2018	Display of roof sign	C	Town Station	Unite the Union
27/04/2018	27/04/2018	Display of roof sign	D	Hamstel Road	Unite the Union
29/04/2018	29/04/2018	Display of roof sign	E	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 1
29/04/2018	29/04/2018	Display of roof sign	E	Fourth avenue	Unite the Union
30/04/2018	30/04/2018	Display of roof sign	F	Southern Way	Unite the Union
30/04/2018	30/04/2018	Display of roof sign	C	Brockles Mead	Unite the Union
30/04/2018	30/04/2018	Display of roof sign	D	Maddox Road	Unite the Union
30/04/2018	30/04/2018	Display of roof sign	G	Anytime Fitness/Harlow Station	HC Driver 2
30/04/2018	30/04/2018	Display of roof sign	E	Fourth Avenue	Unite the Union
01/05/2018	01/05/2018	Display of roof sign	H	Town Station	Unite the Union
01/05/2018	01/05/2018	Display of roof sign	I	Town Station	Unite the Union
02/05/2018	02/05/2018	Display of roof sign		Town Station	HC Driver 3
02/05/2018	02/05/2018	Display of roof sign	J	Velizy Avenue	HC Driver 3
02/05/2018	02/05/2018	Display of roof sign	D	Town Station	HC Driver 4
03/05/2018	03/05/2018	Display of roof sign	A	Town Station	HC Driver 2
03/05/2018	03/05/2017	Display of roof sign	K	Town Station	HC Driver 5
03/05/2018	03/05/2018	Display of roof sign	L	Town Station	Unite the Union
03/05/2018	03/05/2018	Display of roof sign	A	Town Station	Unite the Union
03/05/2018	03/05/2018	Display of roof sign	K	Town Station	Unite the Union
04/05/2018	04/05/2018	Display of roof sign	H	Town Station	Unite the Union
04/05/2018	04/05/2018	Display of roof sign	M	First Avenue	Unite the Union

04/05/2018	04/05/2018	Display of roof sign	N	Town Station	Unite the Union
04/05/2018	04/05/2018	Display of roof sign	C	Edinburgh Way	Unite the Union
06/05/2018	06/05/2018	Display of roof sign	O	Town Station	Unite the Union
07/05/2018	07/05/2018	Display of roof sign	P	Town Station	HC Driver 2
08/05/2018	08/05/2018	Display of roof sign	C	Town Station	HC Driver 2
09/05/2018	09/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
09/05/2018	09/05/2018	Display of roof sign	I	Abercrombie Way	HC Driver 2
09/05/2018	09/05/2018	Display of roof sign	B	Fifth Avenue	HC Driver 2
09/05/2018	09/05/2018	Display of roof sign	B	Fourth Avenue	HC Driver 2
09/05/2018	09/05/2018	Display of roof sign	B	Town Station	HC Driver 2
09/05/2018	09/05/2018	Display of roof sign	R	Town Station	HC Driver 2
09/05/2018	09/05/2018	Display of roof sign	O	Town Station	HC Driver 2
09/05/2018	09/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Town Station	HC Driver 2
13/05/2018	13/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Town Station	HC Driver 2
13/05/2018	13/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
14/05/2018	14/05/2018	Display of roof sign	E	Fifth Avenue	HC Driver 2
14/05/2018	14/05/2018	Display of roof sign	J	Fifth Avenue	HC Driver 2
14/05/2018	14/05/2018	Display of roof sign	O	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
14/05/2018	14/05/2018	Display of roof sign	S	Town Station	HC Driver 2
16/05/2018	16/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
17/05/2018	17/05/2018	Display of roof sign	G	Brooklane Field	HC Driver 2
18/05/2018	18/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
19/05/2018	19/05/2018	Display of roof sign	R	Town Station	HC Driver 2
19/05/2018	19/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
20/05/2018	20/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
20/05/2018	20/05/2018	Display of roof sign	T	Town Station	HC Driver 2
23/05/2018	23/05/2018	Display of roof sign	R	Town Station	HC Driver 2
23/05/2018	23/05/2018	Display of roof sign	R	Town Station	HC Driver 2
23/05/2018	23/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2
25/05/2018	25/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2

25/05/2018	25/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Asda Water Gardens	HC Driver 2
25/05/2018	25/05/2018	Display of roof sign	U	Abercrombie Way	HC Driver 2
26/05/2018	26/05/2018	Display of roof sign	V	The Chantry	HC Driver 2
26/05/2018	26/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
27/05/2018	27/05/2018	Display of roof sign	W	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
27/05/2018	27/05/2018	Display of roof sign	X	Crown Gate	HC Driver 2
28/05/2018	28/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Town Station	HC Driver 2
29/05/2018	29/05/2018	Display of roof sign	P	Perry Road	HC Driver 2
29/05/2018	29/05/2018	Display of roof sign	L	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2
29/05/2018	29/05/2018	Display of roof sign	X	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2
29/05/2018	29/05/2018	Display of roof sign	O	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2
29/05/2018	29/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Y	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2
29/05/2018	29/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Y	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2
30/05/2018	30/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Y	Town Station	HC Driver 2
30/05/2018	30/05/2018	Display of roof sign	R	Town Station	HC Driver 2
30/05/2018	30/05/2018	Display of roof sign	Z	Hospital	HC Driver 2
09/06/2018	09/06/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Hailing Hill	HC Driver 2
09/06/2018	09/06/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Southern Way	HC Driver 2
09/06/2018	09/06/2018	Display of roof sign	Q	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2
20/07/2018	20/07/2018	Display of roof sign	R	Playhouse Taxi Rank	HC Driver 2