

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 12 January 2016

Report of the Head of Regulatory and Supporting Services

APPLICATION FOR THE CITROEN BERLINGO TAXI TO BE APPROVED AS A TYPE OF VEHICLE SUITABLE FOR USE AS A PURPOSE BUILT HACKNEY CARRIAGE IN CARDIFF

1. Background

- 1.1 An application has been received from Mr Mudhaffar Lazim, for approval as a purpose built hackney carriage of a Citroen Berlingo, converted by Cab Direct.
- 1.2 Under the current licence conditions for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles, three different standard classes of vehicles are recognised for the purpose of licensing: saloon cars, prestige vehicles and purpose built vehicles. Purpose built hackney carriages include those vehicles which meet the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness and one off suitably adapted vehicles which are licensed on their individual merits. All vehicles must be right hand drive with four doors and must meet certain criteria. The differences between the standard classes are detailed in the following table:

Specification	Saloon Car	Prestige Vehicle	Purpose Built
Maximum age at first application	25 months	<10 years	<10 years
Maximum permitted age	6 years	10 years	10 years
Age at which it may be annually tested	Until 4 years	Until 4 years	10 years
Headroom	> 32 inches	> 32 inches	N/A
Rear Leg room	> 30 inches	> 30 inches	N/A
Rear Seat Depth	> 18 inches	> 18 inches	N/A
Rear Seat Width	> 54 inches	> 54 inches	N/A
Central Door Locking System Required	No	No	Yes

- 1.3 Currently there are a number of vehicles classified as purpose built for the purposes of licensing as hackney carriages which include:

VEHICLE	APPROVAL DATE
London Taxis International TX1/2	MPCoF
London Taxis International FX4	MPCoF

Reliant Metrocab	MPCoF
London Taxis International TX4	MPCoF
Mercedes Eurocab	06/07/1999
Fiat Scudo Eurocab	06/07/1999
Volkswagen Accessible Sharan	06/07/1999
Peugeot Euro 7	09/08/2000
Fiat Dakota Cab	17/04/2002
Volkswagen Unique Cab SWB	03/09/2002
Ford Transit Unique Cab SWB	03/09/2002
Mercedes Vito Unique Cab SWB	08/10/2002
Peugeot Eurobus	11/02/2003
Fiat High Roof Doblo Freedom Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle	10/06/2003
Fiat Mont Blanc Taxi	02/06/2003
European	09/09/2003
TW200 Taxi	08/02/2005
SVA Citroen Taxi	08/11/2005
Volkswagen Eurocab Taxi	08/11/2005
Citroen Le Cab Noir	08/11/2005
Peugeot Le Cab Noir	08/11/2005
Mercedes M8	08/11/2005
Peugeot E7se	08/11/2005
SVA Peugeot Taxi	06/06/2006
Mercedes Benz T1 Eurocab Taxi	10/10/2006
Fiat Doblo Eurocab Taxi	10/10/2006
Scot Cab	05/12/2006
Mansell Mercedes Taxi and	06/03/2007
Mansell Volkswagen City 7 Taxi	06/03/2007
Peugeot E7 Series II Short Wheelbase Version	03/07/2007
New TW200 Taxi short and long wheelbase Versions	09/10/2007
Peugeot E7 Series II Long Wheelbase Version	06/11/2007
New Scot Cab	04/12/2007
Sentinel Taxi	08/01/2008
Renault Traffic Hackney	12/12/2008
Mercedes Benz Vito Taxi	02/02/2010 MPCoF
Mercedes 108 Vito	06/09/2011
Nissan Primastar	06/09/2011
Volkswagen Caddy Life	10/01/2012
Volkswagen Kudos	02/10/2012

2. Details.

- 2.1 An application has been received from Mr Mudhaffar Lazim, for approval as a purpose built hackney carriage of a Citroen Berlingo.
- 2.2 The vehicle is type approved by the United Kingdom vehicle approval authority and the relevant paperwork is detailed in Appendix A. The applicant has been requested to provide a vehicle for viewing at the meeting.

3. Considerations.

- 3.1 In considering the appropriateness of a vehicle as purpose built for use as a hackney carriage the Committee should consider the safety and suitability of the vehicle for the purpose and in particular should consider the:

- type, size and design of the vehicle
- ease of access and egress from the vehicle
- use of the vehicle by passengers in wheelchairs
- the storage of any necessary equipment such as ramps
- suitability and comfort of the seating arrangement
- provision for fitment of a taximeter
- suitability of the roof sign
- capacity and suitability of the luggage compartment

- 3.2 Should approval be granted each vehicle will need to be inspected and tested to ensure that it is in a suitable mechanical condition for licensing.

4. Trade Consultation

Whereas individual applications for vehicle classification for use are not necessarily a policy issue, the trade consultation procedure was undertaken in accordance with the consultation procedure on any policy changes.

5. Achievability

This report contains no equality, personnel or property implications.

6. Legal Implications

All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council eg. standing orders and financial regulations; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to

the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

7. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- a) The vehicle be inspected and the application decided on its merits.
- b) The Head of the Shared Regulatory Service is authorised on behalf of the City of Cardiff Council to approve applications for purpose-built vehicle approval.

Dave Holland
HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

7 December 2015

This report has been prepared in accordance with procedures approved by Corporate Managers.

Background Papers: None