

Consultation Responses

Response 1:

I see with interest the proposal from the Cardiff Hackney Alliance for recognition from Cardiff Council.

I support the fact that an association has put an application forward but I have a few queries about the application.

MEMBERSHIP

They say the association is open to anyone who is a licensed Hackney Taxi Driver?

there are approx 950 Hackney vehicles in Cardiff and about 1500 private hire vehicles

As every driver licensed is dual badged ie both Hackney and Private Hire licenses, then in theory every licensed driver is a Hackney driver as well as a private hire driver, is the association open to drivers that currently drive a Private Hire?

If not then perhaps its time there should be seperate licenses for both if they want a distinction between both licenses? If there is a distinction then a Hackney driver should not be allowed to work on a private hire fleet.

How many members do they have? Do they truly represent majority of drivers

MEMBERSHIP FEES

They plan to charge a membership fee of £10. is that a week? Month? Year?

Have they got a bank account set up already? The council should be shown proof if so.

EXPULSION

They state the committee will have the power to expel a member at any time. But then a constituted meeting of the association will consider whether a member should be removed?

What is the quorum for such meetings and what voting procedure us used? 50%+1 ?? Seems unfair on the expelled member if so and the quorum is as low as 5 members

Response 2:

The most important item to address is if this group does actually represent a significant population of taxi drivers in Cardiff. We can not allow the views of a minority of drivers to affect the best interests of the trade as a whole. The driver community in Cardiff is very large and diverse and is comprised of many different communities. Does the Hackney Alliance actually represent all of these communities and can they actually talk on all of their behalf for the benefit of all drivers. If they can not, then recognition should not be approved.

It must also be stressed that we should not just accept a list of drivers or copies of their plates/badges etc. A written contract for each driver with signatures confirming the driver's association to the group is required.

Drivers are naturally curious and therefore would follow groups like this online to "see what is going on", this does not constitute support of the groups just a curiosity, only written and signed confirmation from a driver should constitute their support of this group.