

Appendix C

Points of discussion for the Public Protection Committee Meeting

Tinted glass

1. Police report outlines no relevance between tinted windows and public safety. A South Wales Police inspector told the council in 2018 "I don't believe that we have any evidence based or analytical work done on offences or safety concerns around darkened glass.
2. Neighbouring local Councils operating with tinted windows not reporting any problems. Based on FOI requests there are:

RCT – 314 cars – percentage with tints

Newport – 847 cars – percentage with tints

Caerphilly – 113 cars – percentage with tints

V. O. G Number of cars not disclosed but 50% with tints

3. 85% of new cars come with tinted glass as standard, current government legislation states the front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and the front side windows must let at least 70% of light through. More and more new cars are being manufactured with dark privacy glass as standard, especially high-end EXECUTIVE /MPV cars. Reduced choice for drivers. More cost to drivers, older, higher mileage, less reliable vehicles are having to be used on the streets, as drivers cannot replace them with the that meet the councils criteria. – Poorer image for Cardiff for visitors looking to visit and travel in our beautiful city.
4. Premier cars actually stated that their disabled customers requested privacy glass vehicles. Hence Cardiff operators unable to fulfil customer's needs.
5. Drivers names & badge numbers, all recorded by the operator. Council have drivers full vehicle details on log. This ensure public safety and protection.
6. Cardiff Bus, another form of public transport operating within the Cardiff boundaries have their windows covered with advertising – more incidents of violence on the buses than in taxi's.
7. Majority of cars are tracked by GPS especially the main 5 operators, Uber / Ola /Capital /Dragon / Premier.
8. Shear cost to drivers to change to clear glass (between £1500-£3000) car dependent.
9. Some manufacturers have a 4-month waiting list to acquire clear glass due to European supply.

10. Air noise and water leakage into the vehicle once the glass has been changed from manufacturer standards.
11. Some vehicle manufactures don't supply clear glass at all for certain models.
12. Voiding of the warranty to change to clear glass from a third-party supplier.
13. Effects radio and navigation signals as some aerials are located built in the rear windscreen.
14. No other council in England or Wales has reported any problems or concerns for public safety with having dark tinted glass.
15. Tinted windows stop valuables from being seen by thieves and thus reduce crime rates on taxis.
16. Tinted windows help by reducing the harmful ultraviolet rays and reduces exposure to UV radiation.
17. Helps reduce heat loss in the vehicle as well as keeping the vehicle cooler in hotter temperatures, resulting in less emissions produced from the cooling/heating system of the vehicle.
18. From Customer discussions, there is a preference for tinted windows vehicles for comfort.
19. Financial difficulties on drivers operating in Cardiff with tinted windows being a standard feature for the newer prestige vehicles (Euro 6).
20. Operators losing out on work to operators from out of Cardiff city limits, VOG/ RCT/ Newport etc that can provide privacy glass vehicles. Harming Cardiff Businesses.
21. The reduction of private hire fleet age as drivers are being put off buying new vehicles (euro 6), and many buying secondhand vehicles with greater light permeation.
22. At the last public protection committee meeting, drivers were asked to complete a short survey sheet asking, 'Should Cardiff Council allow darkened glass in hackney carriage and private hire vehicles?' Sixteen drivers completed the survey and the results were as follows:
 - 62.5% of respondents believe that the council should allow darkened glass in both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles
 - 25% of respondents believe that only private hire should be allowed to have darkened glass

- 12.5% of respondents believe that darkened glass should not be permitted in either hackney carriage or private hire vehicles

21. The Department of transport states in there “best practice guidance” document that minimum light transmission for glass in front of, and to the side of, the driver is 70%. Vehicles may be manufactured with glass that is darker than this fitted to windows rearward of the driver, especially in estate and people carrier style vehicles. When licensing vehicles, authorities should be mindful of this as well as the large costs and inconvenience associated with changing glass that conforms to both Type Approval and Construction and Use Regulations

22. In recent Public protection committee meetings, Cardiff Council have approved to have tinted glass as long as an approved CCTV is installed as yet the council have not clarified to which system.