

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

4 FEBRUARY 2020

Present: Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
Councillors Sattar, Derbyshire, Goddard, Jacobsen, Lancaster,
Robson and Wood

18 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies of absence were received.

19 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest.

20 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 3 December 2019 and 7 January 2020 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairperson.

21 : PRESTIGE VEHICLE APPLICATION

RESOLVED – That the following applications for Prestige Vehicle status be approved:

- (1) Infiniti Q50 – NL16 BXB
- (2) Chrevrolet Cruze – SB13 UZV

22 : CONSIDERATION OF THE USE OF DARKENED GLASS IN LICENCE VEHICLES

The Committee received a report on the use of darkened glass in licenced vehicles. Members were requested to consider removing and replacing the vehicle licence condition in relation to the use of darkened glass. The report provided a summary of the Committee's previous consideration of this matter.

In July 2018 the Committee resolved to allow the use of darkened glass in licenced vehicles provided that a Council approved CCTV system is also installed. In August 2018 the Committee resolved to delay implementation of that change in the condition until the approval of CCTV specification criteria. In November 2019 Members were advised that that a policy mandating CCTV would require an evidential basis as part of a privacy impact assessment. As there was no evidence to support the mandatory use of CCTV in vehicles with darkened glass the use of CCTV in these circumstances could be viewed as disproportionate and open to legal challenge.

The Licensing Department has more recently received reports from the trade in relation to the difficulties they are having procuring replacement glass for their vehicles. Darkened glass is increasingly being supplied as standard by manufacturers. Proprietors are having to use third-parties to source replacement

glass which is having implications for their manufacturer warranty for the vehicle. Furthermore, modern vehicles are fitted with an antenna embedded in the glass and these are also being affected when glass is replaced.

The Cardiff Hackney Alliance have formally requested that the authority reconsider the condition relating to darkened glass to permit the use of manufacturer fitted glass. Manufacturer fitted glass would have undergone vigorous safety checks and must comply with all relevant legislation. The Cardiff Hackney Alliance (CHA) provided documentation in support of their request.

The Chairperson welcomed representatives from the CHA to the meeting. The Chairperson invited CHA representatives to make representations in support of the proposal. CHA representatives considered that there was no evidence to support a correlation between risks to public safety and the use of tinted windows. The use of third party replacement windows, however, may affect the structural integrity of a vehicle. Other local authorities permit tinted windows and vehicles licenced by those authorities are operating in Cardiff. Tinted windows also protect customers by reducing UV exposure.

The Committee debated the proposals. Officers confirmed that the Licensing Authority would retain control over the level of tint as only manufacturer approved tints would be permitted. The Committee formed a unanimous view in support of the proposal.

RESOLVED – That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Condition in paragraph 1.1 of the report be removed and replaced with:

‘Windscreen and Windows

‘To be in a good clean condition and free from damage. All windows must comply with relevant legislation in respect of light transmission. Only original vehicle manufactured tints are permitted on the rear windows.’

23 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None

The meeting terminated at 10.45 am