

From: Peter Renwick

Sent: 10 September 2020 09:36

To: Evans, Kirsty

Subject: Re: SQA - Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver - Consultation

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ALLANOL: Daw'r e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i Gyngor Caerdydd, cymerwch ofal wrth glicio ar ddolenni.

Good morning Kirsty,

We have supported the BTEC in the past as we found it produced a driver who has a knowledge and understanding of what we expect of them to undertake their duties whilst working at Premier Cars.

The SQA route seems to be a good way forward to ensuring standards remain consistent within the City.

Kindest regards

Peter Renwick

From: Steven Russell
Sent: 09 September 2020 19:23
To: Evans, Kirsty
Subject: RE: SQA - Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver - Consultation

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ALLANOL: Daw'r e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i Gyngor Caerdydd, cymerwch ofal wrth glicio ar ddolenni.

Hi Kirsty

I've reviewed the qualification structure from the SQA and made a comparison against the original BTEC provided by Pearson.

The SQA have incorporated within their qualification the 'safeguarding of child exploitation' which wasn't available with Pearson and is a welcome addition to the course.

I have been in discussions with SQA over a period of months and I am satisfied that their Level 2 Certificate in 'Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver' as mentioned in your email below is of a high standard and meets the criteria provided to previous candidates.

If you require any further information or my assistance in any way then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Steve Russell
Independent Taxi Training Company



From: chris alexander

Sent: 08 September 2020 16:15

To: Evans, Kirsty

Subject: Re: SQA - Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver - Consultation

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ALLANOL: Daw'r e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i Gyngor Caerdydd, cymerwch ofal wrth glicio ar ddolenni.

Dear Kirsty, Firstly may I congratulate on you having the foresight, common sense and good manners to ask training facilities for their feedback. This has been sadly missing from some other LA's.

Scribes Cardiff and its team have been providing BTEC level 2 for The Introduction to role of a professional taxi and private hire driver for over 10 years since its inception in fact. This has been done under the guise of one or more "holding companies".

Scribes Cardiff is now working within The Dominion learning Centre a stand alone facility for the provision of differing qualifications one of which is the afore mentioned. We are a Pearson approved centre. I have already been in touch with SQA and have made enquiries as to becoming an approved centre and delivering the Taxi qualification. The SQA basically provides the exact same syllabus as Pearson, their Solar system for online testing is equivalent to Pearsons Edexcel online. I have seen nothing problematic about SQA in fact they offer fast track switching for established training facilities. My slight concern is around devolved power of licensing and how this may eventually impact the qualification. As you can see from the course details students must choose one option from London /or England. The Welsh Parliament and Mr Skates may have differing ideas on implementation as we move forward. This may need clarification. For example is the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) act 1976 and the Town police clauses act 1974 remain the same in the future. Just something to consider.

As both RCT and Cardiff have decided to use SQA (no idea what Newport or Vale are doing tbh) then it would seem I will follow suit. I have said for a long time that an all Wales approach is needed to standardise training and raise standards within the industry. This could also help to alleviate the ludicrous position of app based companies incentivising drivers to obtain a license in anywhere where it is easy and thus actually working where they are not licensed.

It actually seems so obvious to me, yet I have had no positive feedback from LA's that I've spoken to or actually from Ken Skates. We should all be pushing to raise standards for all customers especially disabled and elderly who rely on Taxis. I can show evidentially how these basic standards are not being adhered to by many Taxi drivers all over Wales (The case of Craig Gough in Bridgend is particularly apposite).

Its a great shame that Pearson have decided to pull this qualification however having researched SQA I am sure they will make an excellent replacement.

Kind Regards Chris Alexander
Scribes Cardiff Ltd.

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