

Licensing and Safety Committee – Supplementary agenda No. 1

A meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee will be held on:

Date: 25 March 2026

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: St George's Centre, Pembroke, Chatham Maritime, Chatham
ME4 4UH

Items

- 6 Post Consultation Review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (Pages 3 - 8)**

Supplementary information has been provided in addition to Appendix C.

For further information please contact Nicola Couchman, Democratic Services Officer on Telephone: 01634 332106 or Email: democratic.services@medway.gov.uk

Date: 23 March 2026

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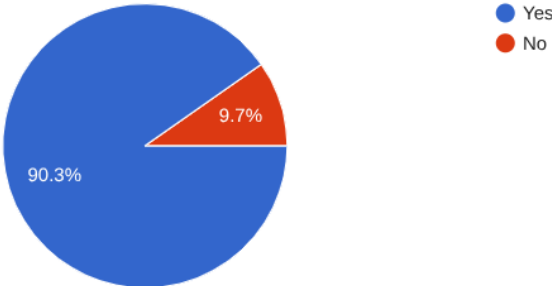
Please see below the results of the MLTDA short survey and comments.

Vehicle age limits

 [Copy chart](#)

Should the age limit on licensed HC and PH vehicles be removed

113 responses

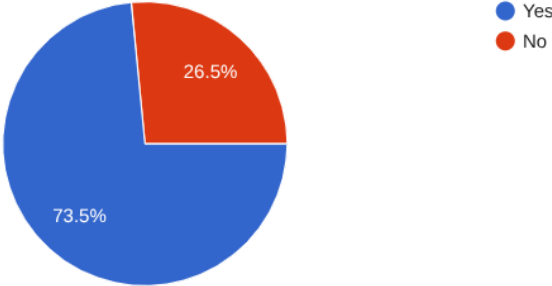


Door Signs

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Should door signs be removed from HC and PH vehicle livery

113 responses

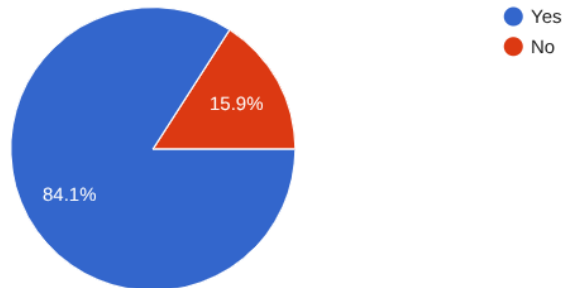


Penalty Points for speeding

 [Copy chart](#)

Should the number of speeding convictions and points on your DVLA licence be increased before a HC or PH licence is suspended or revoked

113 responses

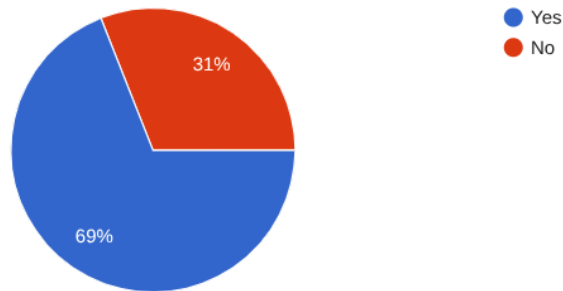


PH vehicle colour

 [Copy chart](#)

Should the colour of red be removed from PH vehicles and changed to any colour apart from white

113 responses



Driver Comments

The age limit of vehicles is unfortunately necessary, there's too many old tired grubby looking vehicles on ranks that leave a poor impression of the taxi trade in Medway, I've actually had customers tell me they've used Uber because they're always clean and newer model cars. Maybe a compromise could be used ie a maximum number of years licensed after original license being issued say of twelve years or a maximum mileage say 250,000 miles as an example.

Vehicle age should have no bearing on usability as long as it is roadworthy and in good condition. Door signs on PH should be retained to avoid any confusion amongst customers and fellow drivers. DVLA rules on licenses is 12 points, reducing to 6 is undermining long standing government rules and it is very easy to get 6 points, then the driver will lose their livelihood Should retain red PH again to avoid confusion.

Door signs should remain on at all times .

Exempted only on school run or long distance.

Penalty points threshold should be 20 points

No

Remove the requirement for new HC to have wav as it's discriminatory. Or make the wav list fairer. Not favouring a company that has full private hire didn't sit a test drivers.

White colour on HC vehicles should also be changed to any colour like Gravesham Borough as we part of their licence authority or any one different colour than WHITE as white colour difficult to find when looking buying and it's difficult to keep cleaning in some weather and cost of cleaning increase every week and work load is low as medway council not doing anything to remove UBER from area therefore MLTDA should try to minimise the difficulties of the Trade as much possible.

For me its more important to remove the vehicle age limits. There are plenty of vehicles in the used car market that could be used for taxi that are older than the current 7 year limit that have decent low mileage and a good service history.

No comment's.

Hi sir madam I would like to remove door sign from vehicle both because already Medway Council sign vehicle plate and top sign clear so I don't think so still need door sign thanks

Vehicle age should never have been put in place. We currently mot our vehicles twice a year and if it is road legal then there is no reason for it not to be driven as a taxi.

Speeding point should mirror the dvla rules. Why cant a taxi driver have 6 or 9 points. As a taxi driver the rules should not be different as points could be gained when not even working as a taxi driver.

Door signs are irrelevant. The customers get text messages of the vehicle plate and driver name. Magnetic plates blow off which is a hazard to other drivers especially on the motorway.

The points one is for dodgy police speed cameras why should my job or license be at risk when they are using inappropriate software as they have already admitted to

The vehicle age limit should be removed. Too expensive to buy a new car !!! As the taxi business is not like before!!! I would suggest we can have a car interim check every 4 months for the cars older than 10 years.. thank you

The age limit of a Hackney carriage or private should be removed to at least 15 years I myself a hackney carriage get tested every four months my car is well looked after clean and tidy and roadworthy along with lots of other Hackney carriages by having this short age limit , this is putting pressure on us drivers to renew our cars that is costing us more money when there is nothing wrong with the vehicle we already have when it hits a certain age as it stands. I just think this is a bit unfair.

Door signs I think should stay as customers won't know which company is which. When picking up from say the hospital as they do look at the door signs. And maybe looking into making all PH into HC after say 5yrs as this would stop out of town drivers working in medway. Which should not be happening.

There are few things like age and colour to change that very important to be change as we can get new car cost less

Due to cost of living vehicle prices are very high and unaffordable to buy secondly our vehicle being regularly inspected the age limit should be lifted last one we are all human some times due to pressure unintentionally speeding happens needs to be pardoned many thanks .

I also feel that new drives should have the option to purchase a fully electric none wheel accessible vehicle as it's unfair on them. State of the art technology such as Tesla and BYD are so upcoming and spacious which a disable access car cannot compete.

Cars today are made alot better and last longer just cost more to repair,
Doors signs are good helps customers, I think PH should stay red ,not sure about the penalty points when your driving 8 or 10 hours a day it's so easy to get caught speeding no excuses

Proposed Amendments to Vehicle Licensing and Operational Requirements

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1. Vehicle Age Limit

Since 2021, all newly licensed vehicles have been subject to age restrictions of 10 years for non-wheelchair accessible vehicles (non-WAV) and 15 years for wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV). It is proposed that these age limits be removed.

Vehicle condition, safety, and roadworthiness are already monitored through regular MOT testing and licensing inspections. Removing the fixed age limit would allow well-maintained vehicles to remain in service while still ensuring safety and compliance.

2. Penalty Points for Speeding Offences

Under current policy, drivers who accumulate more than two SP30 speeding offences, resulting in six penalty points on their DVLA licence, may face licence suspension or revocation.

It is proposed that this threshold be increased to 9 or 12 penalty points before any suspension or revocation is considered. This would bring greater proportionality to enforcement while still maintaining road safety standards.

3. Door Signage Requirements

At present, private hire vehicles are required to display door signage identifying the operating company. However, all Medway-licensed private hire operators now use digital booking and dispatch systems. These systems provide passengers with full vehicle and driver details at the point of booking. Given this, it is proposed that the requirement for door signage be removed, as it no longer serves a necessary public safety or identification purpose.

4. Private Hire Vehicle Colour Requirements

Department for Transport guidance states that Hackney Carriage vehicles must be clearly identifiable to the public, as they are permitted to ply for hire. In Medway, this requirement is met through the standard white vehicle colour and official taxi livery.

The same guidance also states that private hire vehicles should not resemble Hackney Carriages, as they must be pre-booked. In light of this, it is proposed that the current requirement for private hire vehicles to be red should be removed. Allowing a wider choice of colours, excluding white, would maintain clear distinction while providing greater flexibility for operators.

All the taxi company's in medway are computer rise know working with the PDA not call out system with the CB radio anymore. Soon as driver accept the job passengers got the information on their phone. Drivers car s Taxi registration number driver's name and what time he's arriving to pick them up. You don't need to have door signs on maybe on a private hire hire cars, not on heckney, because you got a Big Top sign on the roof. The other reason most the new hybrid electric cars. Got aluminium, body.and doors you can't stick magnetic door signs. You have to use stronger glue or double side cellotape. Which damage the paintwork.

We have so much stress in our daily life. So everyone is prone to do mistakes when driving all day for a living. Nobody is perfect. I've known in the past people from the police forces having 9 points on their license. I think that if you decrease the points on the license before you suspend it revoke it that you will put us through immense pressure driving. Therefore I think that this is unacceptable.

N/A

The age of the car should be tested at 10years. As some cars are 10years, however are better looked after and maintained than other licensed taxis.

Understandable that HC should be white, however it shouldn't matter for private hire.

My main concern is about the penalty point. Taxi drivers are very hard working people. We serve the community 24/7. All of us have families, mortgage, kids to look after and this is the only job most us have. We always try our best to look after our customer and also protect our job and license. It would not be fair if I or other taxi drivers lose their license over couple of points.

Due to regularly been inspected our vehicle the age limit should be lifted speeding happens unintentionally so should not effect the hc livery many thanks

Vehicle age limit shouldn't apply at all to wheelchair accessible vehicles as they're very expensive

Should have all new cars

If door signs go then the private hire colour should remain red. Customers recognise white and red as licensed vehicles which makes it harder for "bad" people to go out in any car preying on the vulnerable

The current 10-year vehicle age limit for taxi drivers is unfair and unrealistic. Vehicles have become extremely expensive, while taxi work is no longer as profitable as it used to be. Many drivers are struggling to survive in the industry, and forcing them to replace vehicles so frequently places an unnecessary financial burden on them. There should either be no vehicle age limit, or it should be extended to at least 20 years, provided the vehicle passes all safety and roadworthiness inspections.

Secondly, the requirement for company door signs is unnecessary, especially for drivers who work independently. Displaying company branding does not serve any meaningful purpose in such cases and often results in damage to vehicle doors, reducing the car's value and causing additional repair costs. This requirement should be reconsidered or made optional.

Finally, regarding driving offences, minor speeding offences should not result in such harsh penalties. If a driver has no serious driving offences, the threshold for suspension of a taxi licence should be at least 12 penalty points, in line with fairness and proportionality. Taxi drivers rely on their licences for their livelihood, and minor infractions should not put their entire career at risk.