

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Regulatory Committee

11 January 2023

Report title	Driver Safety Enclosures Consultation	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	John Roseblade, Director of City Housing and Environment	
Originating service	Licensing	
Accountable employee	Greg Bickerdike	Licensing Manager
	Tel	01902 554030
	Email	Greg.Bickerdike@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	None.	

Recommendation for decision:

The Regulatory Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve a six-week consultation on the regulation of driver safety enclosures in licensed vehicles.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Regulatory Committee for a six-week consultation on Driver Safety Enclosures.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Following the death of a Private Hire Driver, the Private Hire Trade Working Group have expressed a desire for Driver Safety Enclosures (DSE).
- 2.2 Whilst this Committee has already permitted vehicle proprietors to install CCTV within their vehicle, if it complies with the Council's Taxi CCTV Policy, newer equipment is now available to protect drivers.
- 2.3 This novel equipment is not covered by Licensing Services' current policies. These are typically rigid plastic enclosures which are installed in a vehicle, to segregate the driver from the passengers.
- 2.4 The Council acknowledges the protective features of these products but recognises that amateur installation and/or unapproved products result in increased risks, particularly in relation to road traffic collisions.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The Vehicle Licence Requirements Policy (Appendix 1) has been updated with draft amendments in sections 2.1 and 5. These amendments seeks to regulate the installation of DSE in licensed vehicles.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 Due to the profile of this issue in the media and trade, a shortened six-week consultation is requested.
- 4.2 The following will be consulted:
 - A. Service users (licence holders and applicants)
 - B. The Hackney Carriage Trade Working Group
 - C. The Private Hire Trade Working Group
 - D. Other licensing authorities
 - E. National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers (NALEO)
 - F. Institute of Licensing (IoL)
 - G. Black Country Magistrates' Court
 - H. Department for Transport (DfT)
 - I. West Midlands Police

J. Disabled groups

K. Equality Diversity and Inclusion Team

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. The consultation will be run via the Council's consultation hub. Driver safety enclosures will be purchased by licence holders and not the Council.

[SB/12122022/Z]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 The policy requires that enclosures:

A. Must be fitted within the vehicle accordance with regulations UN ECE R43.00 and R21.01 and Section 12 of the M1 category DVSA IVA manual.

B. Must not be modified from the original manufactured design, without the manufacturer's confirmation that this will not cause any safety issues or non-compliance with the relevant UK and/or EC safety legislation.

C. Must not negatively affect any safety equipment, such as airbags, or escape from the vehicle.

D. Must be notified to the vehicle insurer as a modification to the vehicle. Proof of insurance cover including the enclosure is required at all times.

[AB/12-12-2022/108]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 Please see Equalities Analysis in Appendix 2.

8.0 All other Implications

8.1 The production of solid plastic Driver Safety Enclosures will have a negative contribution to climate change; however this is accepted as reasonable given the benefits of the safety equipment.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1 Vehicle Licence Requirements Policy, Regulatory Committee - 17 March 2021

9.2 Taxi CCTV Policy, Regulatory Committee - 9 June 2021

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1: Draft Vehicle Licence Requirements Policy for Consultation

10.2 Appendix 2: Equality Analysis