

Appendix B

Summary of consultation responses

Responder	Response
Councillor	"I raised this in Council and I believe it's an excellent idea which I fully support. Taxi drivers should undergo medical examination to protect the public. I was driven back from Heathrow by a taxi driver who was telling me that he just had a heart attack a week before. I did not feel very safe been driven by that person".
Taxi operator	For us this is quite simple. We are in favour of there being an expanded amount of surgeries/doctors on the approved list, and we in favour of drivers being able to use their own registered doctors. We believe this will make things easier for drivers by being able to obtain convenient appointments and that the extra price 'competitiveness' that occurs may make things more financially viable for drivers/some drivers. We have reviewed the proposed medical form and think it is both reasonable and acceptable to help maintain standards".
Driver	1) Of <i>all</i> the currently local practicing general practitioners (both City and County based), none are aware of my previous or current health status better than my personal Doctor. (2) The Doctor that carries out my Taxi Drivers medical does so very infrequently and I am virtually a complete stranger to him , alternatively my own Doctor has known me over many years and gets to see me far more often , therefore being much more qualified to make an assessment of my current general health and fitness to drive. (3) There is little freedom of choice given here by the City Council / Licensing Department , why should a monopoly be encouraged by the council allowing the use of only a few City based Doctors who can set the charges/cost for the examination to whatever they like ? Charges for the examination appear to vary greatly, my own Doctors Practice who currently is not allowed to examine me, charges far less than any from the limited choice I am currently obliged to use. (4) No doubt the medical criteria / examination methods used in the Taxi Driver Medical are universal, therefor the examination outcome/result will be the same where ever completed
Driver	"I think that you should expand the number of approved practitioners and allow individuals to use their own GP".