

Luke Catchpole

From: Sheikh M Rashel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 08 January 2018 16:41
To: Karen O'Connor; Yvonne O'Donnell
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: saloon taxis

Dear Karen O'Conno,

Under the Demand Survey I wish to propose for the more saloon taxis.

The requirement here in Cambridge for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) is 35% and we sit on 63%. In my understanding that's one of highest number (in proportion) of WAVs in the country.

You may know out of 121 saloons, all except for 1 is a station permit holder; including 47 WAVs, totalling 167 who have access station forcourt rank. Total number of Hackney Carriage is 321.

Nearly all of those authorised taxis largely work of the station rank, for the reasons its an economically viable option and ranking is usually convenient; unlike town centre ranks where taxis often risk over ranking and volume of work is considerably less during daytime. Therefore, a noticeable shortage of saloon taxis in town centre.

A large proportion of daytime taxi users are elderly who find WAVs difficult to enter or exit, and prefer a saloon car for that reason. For some elderly, WAV is not an option and as trade members we are helpless. Our only option is to book a saloon taxi or for the passenger to wait, sometimes up to 20 or 30 mins in all weather conditions.

Disability can take many forms and most people of disability are not on wheelchair, out fleet must consist of a variety of vehicles that represents the demographics of of all users.

I have only been approached 7 times in nearly ten years by a disabled person requiring wheelchair access on the Rank. In my experience most disabled people usually phone for a taxi from where they are and do not proceed to a rank. However, elderly and people of other disabilities are approach me at least once a week and I am having to pass work on.

May I respectfully urge licensing officers to make your own observation in town and station rank.

As volunteer trade representative for 5 years, I have always supported the need of public. If 87 WAVs are granted to switch over to saloon, they could be echo friendly, perhaps hybrid and meet Councils forthcoming low emission requirement, therefore the wider public will benefit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Rashel Mohammed

Chairman

Cambridge Hackney & Private Hire Association

