

29/8/18

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in response to the Consultation regarding Licensed Saloon vehicles to be Zero or Ultra Low emission by April 2020.

My main concern is that a real opportunity to improve the environmental credentials, image and overall efficiency of the Cambridge Hackney Taxi fleet is about to be missed!

The fact that even with the incentive of a Free License ~~to~~ less than 50 Hackneys have changed from their large (often ex-commercial) and ageing vehicles ~~most~~ to Electric Vehicles, must highlight the inadequacies of the Electric Vehicles, and the concerns of the drivers.

The Trade simply would not function properly with a fleet of Electric cars! The only real proposition is the Nissan Leaf and the Realistic distance range is wholly inadequate, and luggage capacity virtually non-existent; making it not suitable for most of the work we are asked to carry out.

Please bear in mind that the early Nissan Leaf on Private Hire was able (with the help of the booking company/operator) to "plot about" between jobs like Dot to Dot

Whereas a Hackney Carriage must carry out its job, and then return (often empty) to the nearest rank. The point being much less than 50% of its mileage is ~~efficient~~ work actual

Combine these shortcomings of the vehicles with a charging network that is still in its infancy and the whole job becomes unviable!

Pushing for the Trade to become Electric before the Vehicles or Charging network is ready risks damaging the reputation of the Trade or even making it unviable. There will be problems with refusing jobs of any distance, or any direction, or any luggage etc etc

Please don't read my response this far as negative towards Electric Vehicles. I do understand where policy is heading and I am well aware of (and share) the Public Health concerns. In time I hope the vehicles will improve sufficiently and the coverage of the charging network will allow for a fully functioning Taxi Service. Until that time Hybrid Vehicles are the way to go.

If you could allow Hybrid Vehicles to continue to operate, or even provide some incentive for drivers to switch to them,

I expect you would see a real demand for that! Hybrid cars being taken up on a large scale would make a much bigger difference to the air quality in our City Centre(s) than Taxi Drivers resisting Electric because the market is not ready, and hanging on to their diesels for as long as possible.

Things are moving quickly in this area and I feel your initial proposal to move the Taxi Fleet towards Electric AND HYBRID by 2025 was probably realistic. Sadly, pushing for Zero Emissions in 6 months is not...

I hope these <sup>points</sup> ~~views~~ will help to clarify the "Trades" point of view for the purpose of your consultation.

Yours faithfully,



