

## Essential Reference Paper 'B'

### TAXI POLICY CONSULTATION

Your contact: Oliver Rawlings  
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Date:

Dear Licence Holder

At the last meeting of the full Licensing Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 officers were requested to undertake a consultation with the licensed trade on the following topics:

- Advertising on licensed vehicles; and
- The knowledge test.

This review of East Herts Policy was prompted by the responses received during the workshops held with the licensed trade earlier this year. This consultation will be open for you to submit your comments between **13<sup>th</sup> October 2014** and **31 October 2014**.

In addition officers have been asked to review the Licensing Records Point Scheme and we would value your opinions.

#### **Advertising on licensed vehicles.**

East Herts Policy currently states in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Handbooks that:

*The two forward door panels may be used to advertise the taxi company details and the rear door panels can be used for other advertising. Sun strips and 'All over' advertising will not be approved.*

During the workshops with drivers it pointed out that this condition seemed overly restrictive and stopped proprietors from making additional revenue from advertising. Drivers commented that there are a number of vehicles that currently have advertising on them that is outside of this policy and wanted that addressed.

We would like your suggestions and opinions for the type of advertising you would like to be allowed to have on your vehicle and in what locations.

Specifically:

1. Do you want the current policy on advertising on licensed vehicles changed?

2. Where on the vehicle would you like to be able to advertise your company details? (Currently restricted to front door panels only).
3. Where on the vehicle would you like to be able to have other advertising? (Currently restricted to rear door panels only).

Please include your reasons and any other comments/requests regarding advertising on licensed vehicles.

### **The Knowledge test**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 all new applicants for a Dual Drivers licence were required to sit a written knowledge test. The details of the test are shown in the Hackney Carriage Handbook:

*Applicants are required to undertake the Hackney Carriage Knowledge test, this is a written test conducted on a group basis by a Licensing Officer. The test asks questions relating to East Herts policies, legislation, basic arithmetic and your knowledge of the East Herts District. East Herts District is divided into 2 areas for the purposes of the test, Bishop's Stortford/Sawbridgeworth and Hertford/Ware.*

The test consists of two parts. Part 1 consists of 25 questions regarding routes within the applicants chosen area, the pass mark 20 out of 25. Part 2 of the test consists of 5 multiple choice questions which can be about East Herts policies, legislation and basic arithmetic. The pass mark for part 2 is 4 out of 5.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 nine new applicants have booked places on the knowledge test, 2 applicants booked on did not show up sit the test and of the remaining 7 applicants 6 failed the knowledge test.

As part of the consultation we would like your opinion on the following points:

1. Do you think the knowledge test for Dual Drivers need to be changed?
2. If you think it should be changed then how? (easier, harder, different topics etc.).

3. Should a knowledge test be introduced for all new applicants for a private hire driver's licence?
4. If a knowledge test is introduced for private hire applicants at what level should this be set? (easier or the same as the Dual Driver knowledge test)

Please include your reasons and any other comments/requests regarding knowledge tests.

### **Licensing Record Points Scheme (LRPS)**

Officers are currently reviewing the Licensing Records Point Scheme in line with the recommendations of the Licensing Committee. This is to ensure that the scheme is fit for purpose operates alongside the Community Safety and Licensing enforcement Policy. The full 10 page policy can be viewed at: <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=22111>

Officers would welcome feedback and suggestions in relation to LRPS so that it meets the needs of the trade and of the Licensing Authority.

All comments should be made in writing, before midnight on **31<sup>st</sup> October 2014**. This can be done:

**By post:**

Licensing, East Herts Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG13 8EQ

**By hand:**

To either the Hertford or Bishops Stortford offices

**By email:**

community.protection@eastherts.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



**Oliver Rawlings  
Senior Specialist Licensing Officer  
East Herts Council**

# FREE ONE-DAY TRAINING



**Friday, 31. October 2014**  
**9:30 am - 4:30 pm**  
**Nigel Copping Community**  
**Building, Sanville Gardens**  
**Stanstead Abbotts**

**Sign up via CVS BEH:**  
**0300 123 1034 or**  
**[claudia@cvsbeh.org.uk](mailto:claudia@cvsbeh.org.uk)**

**Limited spaces:**  
**first come, first served**

## What is it?

Passenger Assistant Training Scheme (PATS), one day course + separate in-car assessment

An addition to the MiDAS Scheme.

## Aimed at:

Hackney Carriage drivers, Community Transport volunteers and employees. Designed for anyone who has care or supervision of passengers travelling by road.

## Content?

The Role of the Passenger Assistant  
Passenger Awareness and Assistance  
Working with Adults who require Care and Supervision

A separate free practical assessment taking place on a different day is agreed individually.

