

Reading Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Bridge Street  
Reading  
RG1 2LU

16/10/19

**To: Reading Borough Council`s Licensing Committee**

Please see my submissions to the Committee below:

I would like to request that Reading Borough Council allow me the opportunity to put forward oral submissions as additional information based on my current circumstances.

Whilst I appreciate that the RTA or RCDA represent the trade as a whole, my circumstances are individual to me and therefore I suggest that I am the best person to act in my own best interests.

**Background**

As I have mentioned previously in correspondences with others within Reading Borough Council, In 2009, I purchased a brand new Euro 4 LTI TX4. Over the years I suffered a number of major mechanical problems with this vehicle including changing the engine twice, a new gearbox and replacing body panels countless times.

Having reached the point where I was fed up with this vehicle and it's expenses just like many of my colleagues, I decided to purchase a Euro 5b Mercedes-Benz Vito (Vito) based on the Council`s current policy of 15 years age limit and the ability to resell or re-license my 2009 Euro 4 TX4 (TX4) within the Borough of Reading.

Clearly my intention was to recover some money from the sale of my TX4 and to put this money towards paying off the loan that I had obtained in order to fund the purchase of the Vito.

Had I even had the slightest knowledge that the Council was proposing amendments to its current emission policy in relation to the Hackney Trade, I would have almost certainly reconsidered my original decision to purchase the Vito.

My intention was to recover some money from the sale of my TX4 and to put this money towards paying off the loan that I had obtained in order to fund the purchase of the Vito. Having the ability to re-sell the TX4 played a big part in making the decision to upgrade to a Euro 5 vehicle. This meant I would be able to sell my TX4 in Reading for approximately £4,000.

If I had made the decision after I had become aware that the Council were proposing these changes then one could ultimately argue that I made my decision based on the Council's current proposals and prospect of the current emissions policy changing. However, this was clearly not the case as I mentioned earlier I had no idea what the Council was planning. This only became apparent, after I had purchased the vehicle at which point it was too late to reverse my decision.

Under the circumstances, I may now have only up until the date of the Meeting to try and sell my TX4 to another Hackney carriage proprietor in Reading, this already seems to be a mammoth task given the fact that the Council published it's report in the last 24-hours and there is pressure to sell cheap.

I do not wish to take part in any other debate with the Council's licensing committee unless invited to do so, my request and proposal is specific and to the point.

### **Proposal**

I would like to suggest a proposal which will see a decision by Reading Borough Council's licensing committee that will allow individuals like myself more time to be able to sell my TX4 to other Hackney proprietors on the Reading Fleet.

Just to highlight, the re-sale value of these vehicles outside Reading Borough, is very poor and it is likely that my vehicle will end up at the scrapyards.

To me it does not seem fair if I am prevented from addressing the committee on the points mention above as their decision will affect me directly and possibly cause me loss as a consequence.

I therefore humbly request that Reading Borough Council`s licensing committee allow me the opportunity to make submissions based on the above.

Regards

Imran Ali