

Martin Seymour  
Taxi Licensing Department  
Hove Town Hall



Dear Martin

The taxi licensing department contacted the trade on October 17 2019 regarding the following matter:

***“Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licence Condition Proposals.***

***Cashless Payment Facilities***

*Following a recent request by the Independent Drivers Brighton & Hove (IDBH) at the last Taxi Forum, the Taxi Licensing Team wish to consult the Trade on a proposal to make all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles have a functioning cashless payment facility available for passengers.*

*With the growth of cashless payments and the UK having the highest revenue in cashless payments in the European Union, and most of the population not carrying cash, it is reasonable to ensure that hackney carriage and private hire vehicles have facilities to offer cashless payments if required by the passenger.*

*Proprietors may also have a receipt printing facility should they wish to do so.*

*If you have any comments on the proposal please reply to this email or send your comments to the Hackney Carriage Office, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ by the 30th November 2019.”*

**Under the ‘Brighton & Hove Taxi Trade Forum Association’ the trade reps met on Wednesday November 6 2019 to primarily discuss this matter.**

The trade reps attending were: Sudanese Taxi Forum - United Taxi Driver Association - City Cabs - Radio Cabs – Streamline - iDB&H - Unite - GMB

**Conclusion of meeting:**

**Card Readers**

The trade reps debated the pros and cons of mandatory card readers.

170 letters of objection were provided at the meeting . These along with any other such letters provided will be supplied to the council by November 30 2019

The conclusion of the discussion was that whilst the trade should be encouraged to provide card readers it was unanimously supported that the trade will stand against any further regulations to our conditions of licensing under the current situation in the city where hundreds of vehicles not licensed by the council predominantly work here with impunity under Uber.

It is also considered that by adding further conditions to our highly regulated local taxi/private hire trade will add more reasons to not gain a local licence but instead seek a licence from other licensing authorities with lower conditions of licensing and work 'out of sight out of mind'.

This would then mean that the trade does not support card readers to be added as a condition of licensing.

### **Letters of Objection**

Approximately 170 template letters of objection from licensed drivers have now been presented to the council.

With regards

Andrew Peters  
Secretary  
GMB Brighton & Hove Taxi Section

On behalf of the Brighton & Hove Taxi Trade Forum Association