

Appendix C

Top Light Consultation comments and officer responses

Consultation comment	Officer response
I feel it is important for this condition to remain so that officers are able to clearly identify the vehicle as a hackney carriage, as opposed to a private hire vehicle. I also feel it is important for the safety of members of the public to allow them to identify that a vehicle is a hackney carriage and as such is one that is entitled to ply for hire and can be flagged down. It also crucial in the identification of the vehicle as a hackney carriage to enforcement agencies countrywide.	We agree with this comment.
Whilst actually working as a Hackney carriage vehicle then the sign should be displayed as to let the public know that it is a working Hackney carriage vehicle. When the driver isn't working then I believe it should be removed, or option to remove sign stopping confusion as to a working or none working vehicle. Also if the driver is on a personal holiday then why should they have to have a sign saying they are a taxi.	<p>We agree that the top light should be displayed when the vehicle is working and as stated in Hawkins v Edwards a hackney carriage is always a hackney carriage for the full period of the licence and is subject any conditions for that period.</p> <p>When drivers are going on holiday and wish to use their vehicle for that period for domestic purposes they can surrender the plates at no cost to themselves and the Council will hold them in deposit until they retrieve them on their return.</p>
There have times where my vehicle has been broken into because people know taxi drivers carry cash and leave valuables such as sat nav inside of their vehicles. We will become more of a target to these criminals showing them that this is a taxi. Also we use our vehicles for personal use ie travelling to other cities, which doesn't look very good at all.	Police advice is to never leave valuables in any vehicle and the security of the vehicle is the responsibility of the driver. There are identifiable marks on the vehicle such as plates as well as the top light. (also refer to the case as stated above)

<p>The top sign should be allowed to be removed when the taxi is not working for fares as it is nice going on holiday displaying your top sign and people trying to flag you down. And how does this work if you take the car abroad say like France.</p>	<p>Please see the response above</p>
<p>After speaking to many customers they have no idea that there is a difference between a private hire taxi and a Hackney carriage. They only recognise London type taxis as Hackney carriages.</p>	<p>If there is already confusion for members of the public in identifying a hackney carriage the removal of the top sign will cause more confusion.</p> <p>Please the full report for alternative options to the top light.</p>
<p>I believe Top sign only be used when cab drivers are working. Because I'm some areas Cab Drivers been attack by public when they were out with the families. Most Of the Cab Drivers Use the same car for family purpose and they will identify easily for the target.</p>	<p>Please see response above.</p> <p>The Council have never had complaints/reports about drivers being attacked when out with their families for their vehicles being identified as a taxi.</p>
<p>Also change the rule of meter calibration certificate as majority of the Hackney drivers works for private hire and don't use the council meter, also how it is possible to update same dates twice in one Calendar year, this is unfair as the vehicle testing fee is already high enough for six months other councils change less than this for one year.</p>	<p>This comment is not relevant to the top light issue.</p>
<p>Yes because alot of drivers they only work as private hire they never ever worked as a Hackney..so having top sign on all time is unnecessary....</p>	<p>The driver has the option of licensing their vehicle as a private hire vehicle and not have to display a top light. Please see full report for reasons as to necessity of identifying a hackney carriage.</p>
<p>If out of area or not working then it will not attract attention. Also when parked the roof sign cannot be stolen and reduce the risk of car being broken into.</p>	<p>Please see previous response.</p>
<p>It states on the plate that it is private hire or hackney and they are different colours the roof sign is out dated</p>	<p>The distinguishing feature of a hackney carriage particularly from a distance is a top light which assist with enforcement.</p>

Should only be required while on duty.	Please see previous response

<p>How else would I know it's a genuine taxi?</p>	<p>We agree with this comment.</p>
<p>Gedling Hackney Carriages should be clearly identifiable so if I want to hire one I am able to see it easily. If the taxi roof sign condition is removed perhaps you could consider having a distinctive colour for them? There are lots of local companies who do cheap car wraps. Perhaps bright yellow like Derby or a combination of yellow and Gedling red. (A bit like the old Nottingham black and white cabs).</p>	<p>We agree with this comment. Please see the full report for alternative options.</p>