

**Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982  
Replacement Taxis and Private Hire Cars – Accident Damage**

**Report by Director, Corporate Resources**

**1 Purpose of Report**

This report introduces a request that the Council alter current practice and permit temporary replacement vehicles to enable continued operation when there is accident damage that forces the licence-holder to take his / her Licensed Taxi or Private Hire Car off the road for a period.

On occasion, similar requests have been received in the past but none have been followed up like this.

**2 Request**

Mclaren Auto Body Ltd , Unit 5 – 6, Dryden Vale, Bilston Glen Industrial Estate, Loanhead EH20 9HN advises that:-

“We have discovered a problem that restricts the cab drivers in Midlothian from accepting a replacement vehicle while their own vehicle is repaired in a safe manner. The Midlothian taxi office will not permit the use of replacement unless the V5 and insurance is in the name of the driver which in the event of a non fault accident is forcing drivers out of business or worse, for the general public is the fact that selecting a quick fix repair facility that may not have the latest knowledge and equipment to repair boron steel which once scratched or impacted loses strength for a secondary impact would cause serious ingress into the passenger safety cage of the modern vehicle as it behaves like a tile once scratched it will snap at the point of weakness.

Could we please request a response to this matter as we would like the safe repair of these vehicles to ensure the safety of good people of Midlothian and keep the driver in business when an incident that is not his/her fault?”

**3 Consultation**

The Police, and local Taxi and Private Hire Car Associations have been consulted and their comments are awaited.

The Police advise that:-

When it is a new license or renewal we also insist that the V5 and insurance are in the correct name but we understand the situation when a replacement is required to allow the owner to continue working. We therefore would accept the V5 in another name in this situation. Both Edinburgh and West Lothian Councils also allow this.

#### **4 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee

- (a) note the terms of the report;
- (b) agree an amendment to procedure that temporary replacement vehicles be permitted; and
- (c) remit to the Officers to devise a scheme of implementation in consultation with the Trade Associations and the Police.

**15 May 2012**

**Contact Person:** R G Atack      **Tel No:** 0131 271 3161  
**Background Papers:** File CG 10.7 (RGA)  
Email from McLaren Auto Body Ltd.