

**Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Cars – Other than approved Fittings****Report by Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation for the delegation of power to the Director, Resources in consultation with the Chair, to permit the fitment of devices ie those that are not part of the original specification, to Taxis and Private Hire Cars.

2 Background

Recently a hire car was presented for examination with *inter alia* CCTV and a reversing camera already fitted. It was clear that the fitting of the CCTV was currently premature and therefore had to be removed pending the completion of the Council's deliberations, including a Privacy Impact Assessment, etc in compliance with the Data Protection legislation.

As regards the reversing camera, it was established that it was not part of the CCTV installation; and there were no such "aftermarket" (ie not part of the original specification) cameras fitted to Edinburgh or West Lothian vehicles

However, no fittings are permitted other than those approved and are not part of the original specification of the hire car. Following consultations involving the Information Commissioner, the Cab Inspector and the applicant, the conclusion was reached that subject to the installation being inspected and found to be satisfactory, approval would be given in order to resolve the matter without further delay.

In terms of the Conditions of Licensing:-

No fittings other than those approved may be attached to or carried upon the inside or outside of the hire car.

In order to cater for similar approaches in the future ie where the issue is largely of a technical nature and does not compromise the safety of the driver, passengers and other road users, it is suggested that rather than consider altering the Conditions of Licensing, the Committee agree to delegate power to the Director, Resources, in consultation with the Chair, to approve such installations, subject to satisfactory prior inspection. In respect of issues like the current one, the fixtures and fitting of the camera and the viewing screen will be examined at the Taxi Examination Centre.

3 Resource Implication

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

3.1 Risk implications

The risk implications are that if the request is refused, there may be delay that could be avoided.

3.2 Policy Implications

Strategy and Consultation

The information contained in this report does not relate to a strategy. Consultation, with the Offices mentioned has been undertaken.

3.3 Equalities and Sustainability

An equalities impact assessment has not been carried out. There are no sustainability implications.

4 Conclusion

No fittings other than those approved may be attached to or carried upon the inside or outside of a taxi or private hire car.

It is considered that an alteration to procedure by giving delegated powers to the Director, in consultation with the Chair will provide benefit.

5 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) note the report; and
- (b) agree to delegate power to the Director, Resources, in consultation with the Chair, to approve such installations in future, subject to satisfactory prior inspection; and note that in respect of similar issues, the fixtures and fitting of the equipment and in this case, the viewing screen will be examined at the Taxi Examination Centre.

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Background Papers Conditions of Licensing