

Response from Relevant Parties in relation to the Petition Against Tinted Windows

Relevant Party	Comments on Tinted Windows Requirement
<p>██████████ of Derbyshire Constabulary</p>	<p>I am aware that South Derbyshire District Council is in receipt of a petition from the taxi trade seeking to amend the current Licensing criteria of the Council that is:</p> <p>“The minimum light transmission permitted for the wind screen is 75% and all other windows in the licensed vehicle shall be 70%.”</p> <p>Police would support this policy remaining for all new vehicles licensed for private hire.</p> <p>There is a clear risk in allowing tinted windows in the rear of taxis in relation to children at risk of exploitation and violence against women and girls, which also includes sexually or drug. Making the rear windows un-tinted offers security and addresses the safety of the drivers and passengers by ensuring those within the vehicles are clearly visible.</p> <p>There are continued reports within the South Division Policing area where there is mention of taxi’s being used for the transportation of children at risk of exploitation to the locations where they are abused. These are also the concerns of those present during the CSE tasking meeting.</p> <p>Our overall view is that the policy to restrict tinted and privacy glass in licensed vehicles should remain in place.</p>
<p>██████████ School Contract Manager at Leicestershire County Council</p>	<p>I believe this would be worthwhile policy to keep, I don’t really see why there could be a need for tinted windows and there would be benefits to a policy that does not allow them from a safeguarding/passenger safety point of view.</p>
<p>██████████ from the National Working Group for Exploitation</p>	<p>We all agree the legislation needs to stay in place, we would ask ‘why would they require tinted windows?’ There is so much written evidence and ad hoc evidence that supports the concerns around safeguarding and taxis that anything we can do to offer transparency and safety should be considered.</p>

	<p>A lone teenager in a taxi would alert traffic police to possible vulnerable young people with either country lines or sexual exploitation factors, tinted windows would reduce that possible intervention.</p> <p>Tinted windows could be a factor in increased risk from passengers for the driver.</p> <p>28% is not a high level of resistance. Other areas are having similar request but I don't know anyone yet who has removed the requirement.</p>
<p>██████████ from the Safe and Sound Group</p>	<p>We would support the continuation of this policy.</p> <p>Licenced vehicles are used for such transportation as you outline and there is evidence and intelligence that such vehicles are used for the transportation of vulnerable young people who are being exploited- Clearly this does not apply to all and it is not always known by the driver but the attached case highlights the issue</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-57253491</p> <p>https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/news/derbyshire/news/campaigns/2021/october/county-lines-how-dashcam-footage-lead-to-a-gang-being-jailed-for-40-years---part-3/</p>
<p>Derbyshire County Council</p>	<p>As the Transport Safeguarding lead for Derbyshire County Council, I wholeheartedly support South Derbyshire District Council's policy against the use of tinted glass. I manage the home to school transport teams (mainstream and special needs) and the adult transport team and we would not support the use of vehicles with tinted windows on DCC contracts.</p> <p>There have been many high profile CRE cases in the UK over the last few years and sadly, these continue to be exposed. In Derbyshire, we have and continue to receive, CRE allegations in connection with the transportation of vulnerable children and older adults and we investigate all complaints and allegations, often liaising with our colleagues in Licensing Authorities. There is no reason why a licenced vehicle should require tinted glass and given that some vulnerable and/or very young service users are transported without a passenger assistant on board, it is essential that parents/carers, the public, other road users and the schools/day centres can clearly see into the rear of the licenced vehicle where passengers are sat.</p>

	<p>There is also the safety aspect of being able to see that service users are secured in the vehicle either with a seat belt, child seat (if they are small or have a disability), or in a wheelchair and that the vehicle is not overloaded or carrying unauthorised passengers (which we do occasionally have complaints about).</p> <p>In the interest of safety and safeguarding I confirm full support for your policy which is also in the interests of community safety.</p>
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