

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire – Department for Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Standards



Consultation Responses

Introduction and Background

Craven District Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney carriage, Private Hire and Dual Drivers, proprietors and private hire operators within the District.

In July 2020 the Department of Transport (DfT) published the revised Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards (Taxi Standards). The purpose of the Taxi Standards is to create a core minimum set of national standards to regulate the taxi and private hire sector, with the aim of protecting the public. The document can be found online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards>

The DfT expects the recommendations set out in the taxi standards to be implemented by Licensing Authorities unless there is a compelling local reason not to.

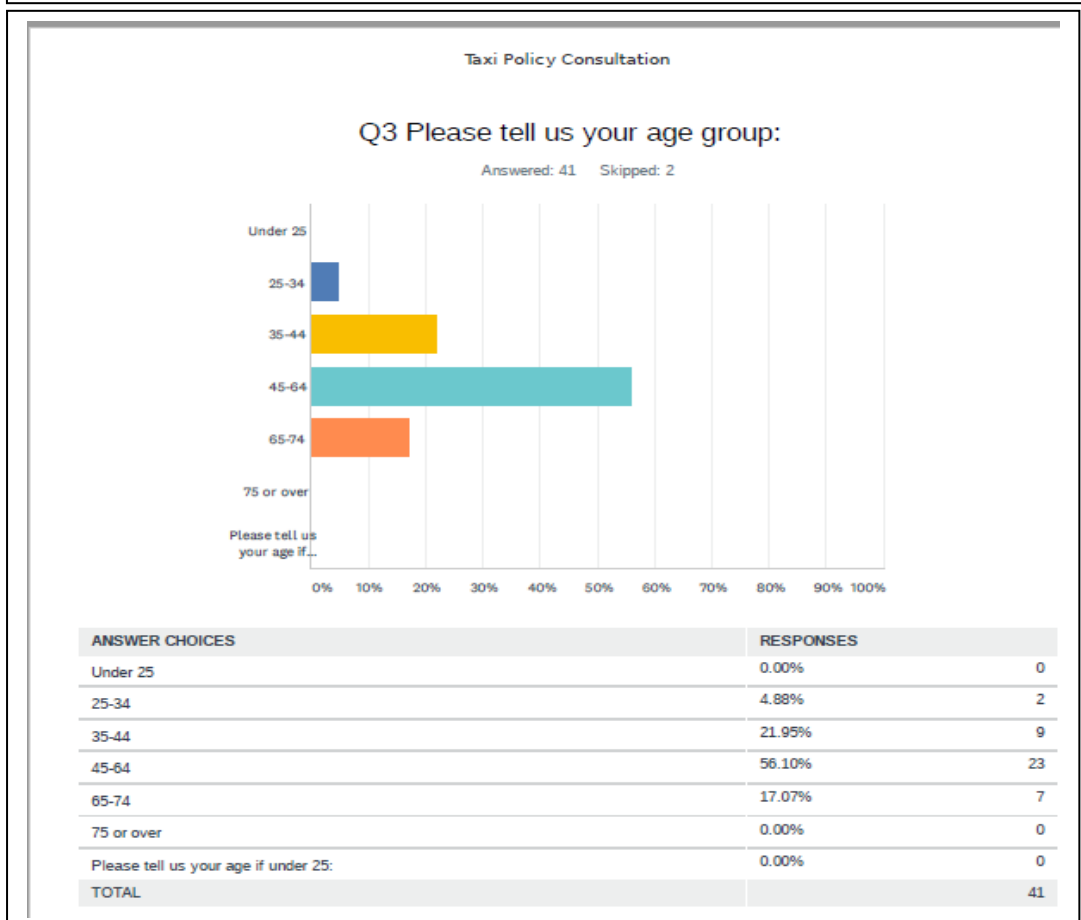
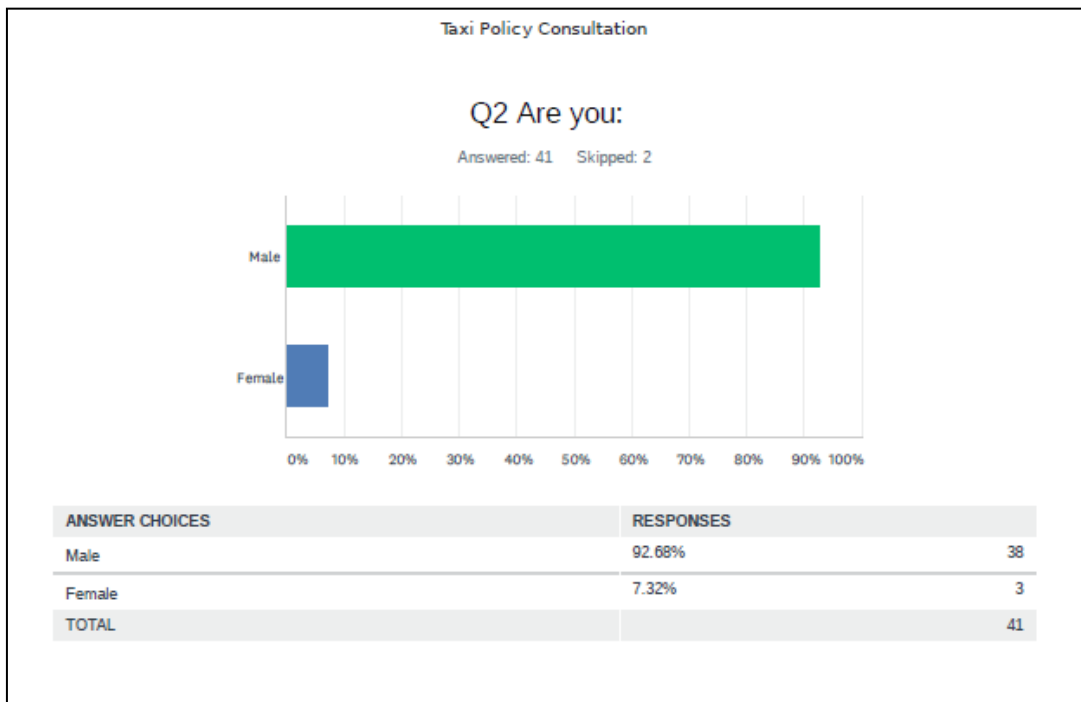
On 13th July 2021, Craven District Council's Licensing Committee was informed of the Taxi Standards not currently included within the Councils Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. The Licensing Committee, before agreeing to bring the Policy in line with the DfT recommendations, wanted to consult with key stakeholders.

Consultation

A public consultation was carried out to seek the views of the trade as well as members of the public, and a wide range of partnering agencies and stakeholders.

The consultation took place from 1st September to the 29th September 2021

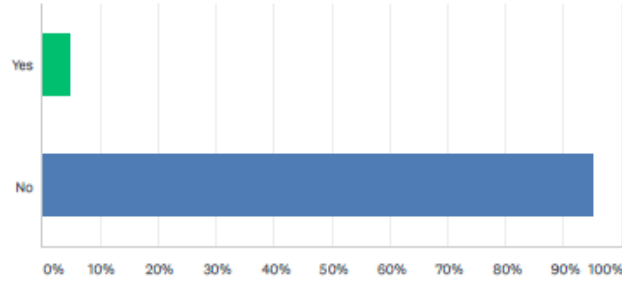
Q1 – Was regarding personal information on the responder. Therefore this has been excluded from the results



Taxi Policy Consultation

Q4 Are your day to day activities limited because of health problems?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 2

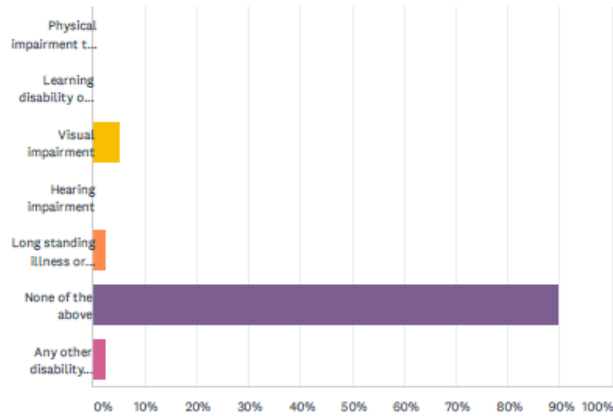


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	4.88% 2
No	95.12% 39
TOTAL	41

Taxi Policy Consultation

Q5 Please tell us about any disabilities that you have:

Answered: 39 Skipped: 4

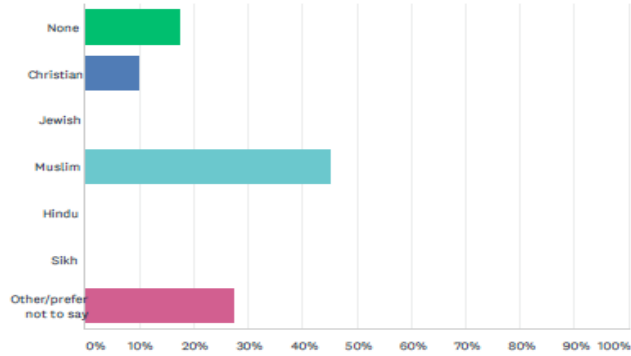


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Physical impairment that causes mobility issues	0.00% 0
Learning disability or difficulty	0.00% 0
Visual impairment	5.13% 2
Hearing impairment	0.00% 0
Long standing illness or health condition	2.56% 1
None of the above	89.74% 35
Any other disability (please specify).	2.56% 1
TOTAL	39

Taxi Policy Consultation

Q6 What is your religion/faith?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 3

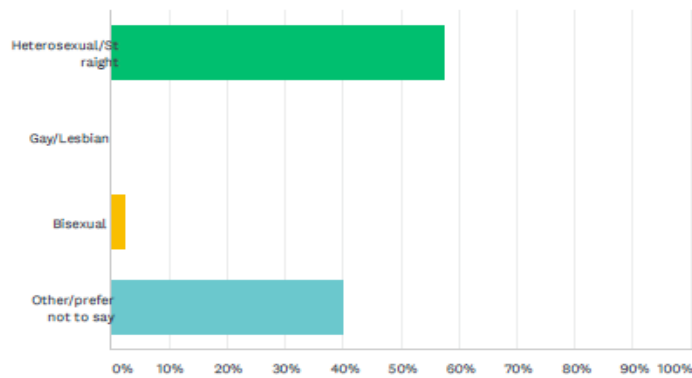


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	17.50%	7
Christian	10.00%	4
Jewish	0.00%	0
Muslim	45.00%	18
Hindu	0.00%	0
Sikh	0.00%	0
Other/prefer not to say	27.50%	11
TOTAL		40

Taxi Policy Consultation

Q7 Are you:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 3

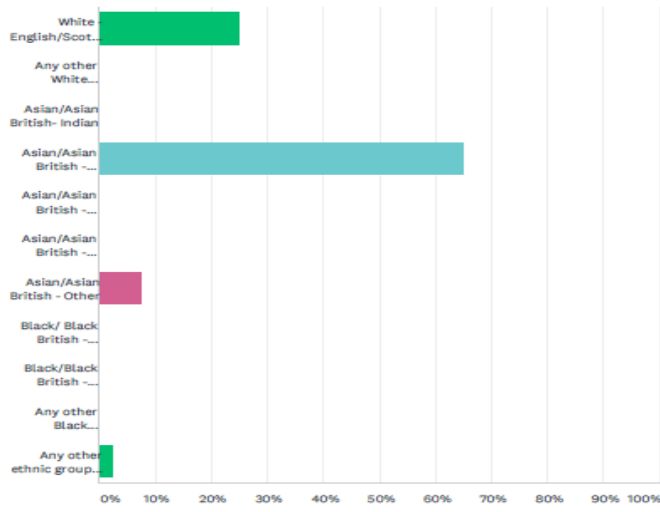


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Heterosexual/Straight	57.50%	23
Gay/Lesbian	0.00%	0
Bisexual	2.50%	1
Other/prefer not to say	40.00%	16
TOTAL		40

Taxi Policy Consultation

Q8 What is your ethnic group?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 3

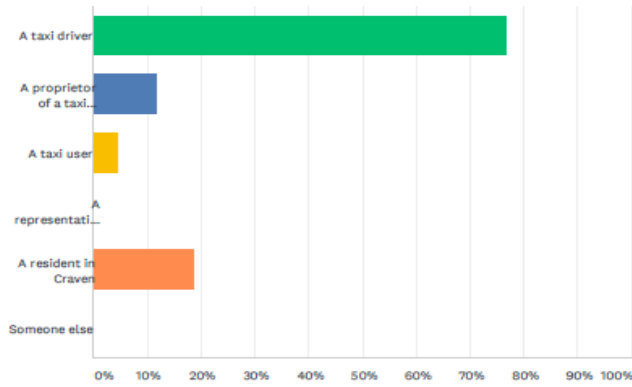


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White - English/Scottish/Welsh/Irish	25.00%	10
Any other White background	0.00%	0
Asian/Asian British- Indian	0.00%	0
Asian/Asian British - Pakistani	65.00%	26
Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.00%	0
Asian/Asian British - Chinese	0.00%	0
Asian/Asian British - Other	7.50%	3
Black/ Black British - Caribbean	0.00%	0
Black/Black British - African	0.00%	0
Any other Black background	0.00%	0
Any other ethnic group (please state):	2.50%	1
TOTAL		40

Taxi Policy Consultation

Q9 Please tell us, are you: (tick those that apply)

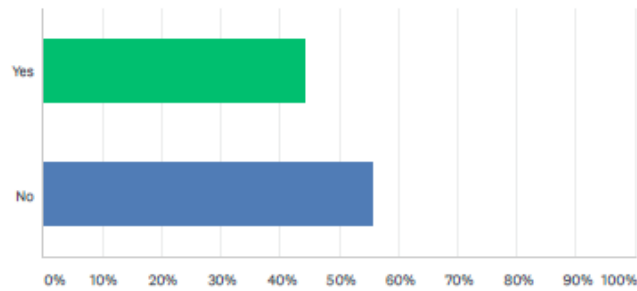
Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
A taxi driver	76.74% 33
A proprietor of a taxi business in Craven District	11.63% 5
A taxi user	4.65% 2
A representative of a public authority	0.00% 0
A resident in Craven	18.60% 8
Someone else	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 43	

Q10 Should the Council adopt the conditions for Private Hire Operators?

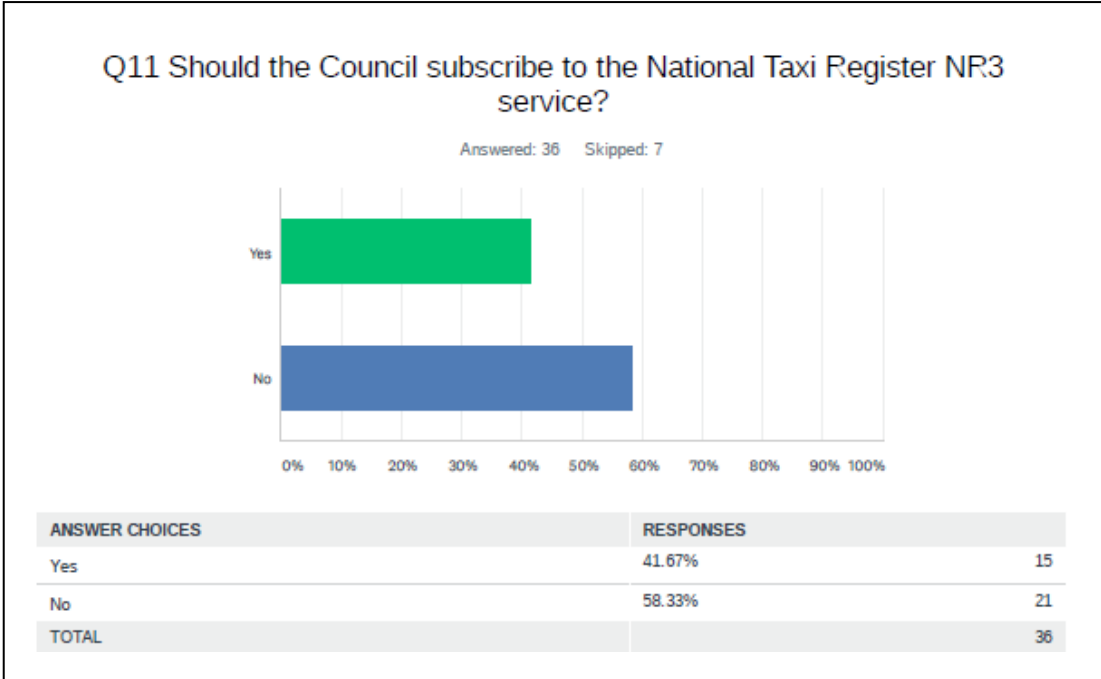
Answered: 36 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	44.44% 16
No	55.56% 20
TOTAL	36

Q10 Additional comment on should the Council adopt the conditions for Private Hire Operators?

Everybody involved in the business should be DBS checked
Only council should have details
Better safeguards to be in place
Common sense
I have been a taxi driver for 22 years and feel that we should carry on the we have been doing in the past I don't agree with new Councilor rules
I have had some terrible taxi drivers who have no driving knowledge
So that Licensing authorities all have the same standards.
I cannot see a benefit to protecting the public, to have a register from operators to who answers their phones and works in their offices, this seems obtrusive and puts an additional cost to companies and potential employees.
As I am sole trader a hackneyed carriage driver they law should be different.
It is discriminatory. The employer takes steps to ensure that they appoint are reliable and this onerous and will result in employers not wishing to give people with a spendthrift conviction a opportunity to work
To protect the general public
It will keep the public safe

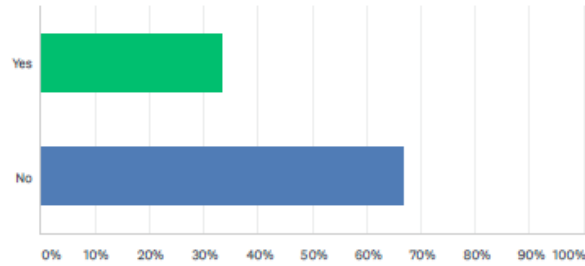


Q11 Additional comments on should the Council subscribe to the National Taxi Register NR3 service?

	Licensing Manager
All licences should only be approved after checks... CDC does all necessary checks for licensing	The Licensing Authority is only able to check the information for which it is aware of and disclosed on an application and supporting documentation.
N/A	
Common sense	
I don't think we need	
Depends on the circumstances.	
Safety of all concerned	
All councils should subscribe .	
So you have access to the information	
Keeps public safe	
It would save a lot of time and effort in weeding out these drivers who lose their licence applying at different councils to try and circumvent the revocation or refusal. These drivers would quickly fade away as there would be no chance they could get a badge anywhere in the country.	
Common sense. If you are not a fit and proper individual to be a licensed driver in one area that should apply to all the local councils	The register would just disclose the previous licensing information if applicable. It would be a matter for the Licensing Authority to determine if they are a fit and proper person in light of any information

Q12 Should the Council increase the time period that should have passed for an applicant to obtain a licence from 3 years to 7 years for offences relating to possession of a weapon?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.33%	12
No	66.67%	24
TOTAL		36

Q12 Additional comments on should the Council increase the time period that should have passed for an applicant to obtain a licence from 3 years to 7 years for offences relating to possession of a weapon?

You can purchase multi tools that act as different tools, so can they be classed as an offensive weapon. A driver may purchase a tool box that may contain offensive weapon. These tools may be needed if their vehicle breaks down.

Depending if said weapon was used, but 3 years is long enough, if weapon was used then police will have dealt with offender

They should never work as a public servant

Can you please define what is classed as a weapon?

What if I left a hammer or saw I was working at my family home. Will that be classed as a weapon

Need more taxi drivers

Common sense

All standards should be to a minimum standard

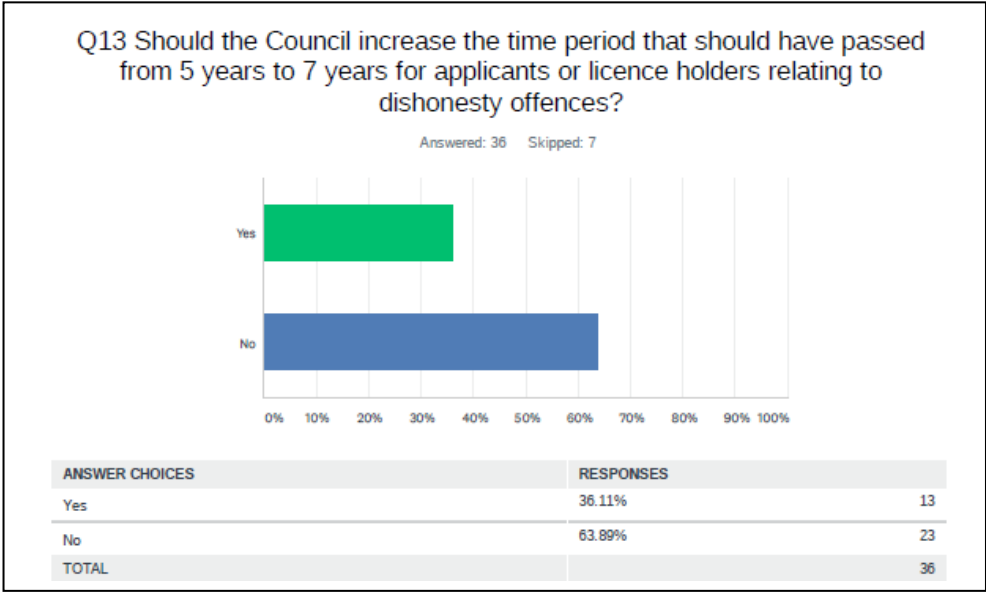
Should not ever get a licence again.

Seven years is quite onerous and council has discretion to refuse if they are not of fit character

It will keep public safe

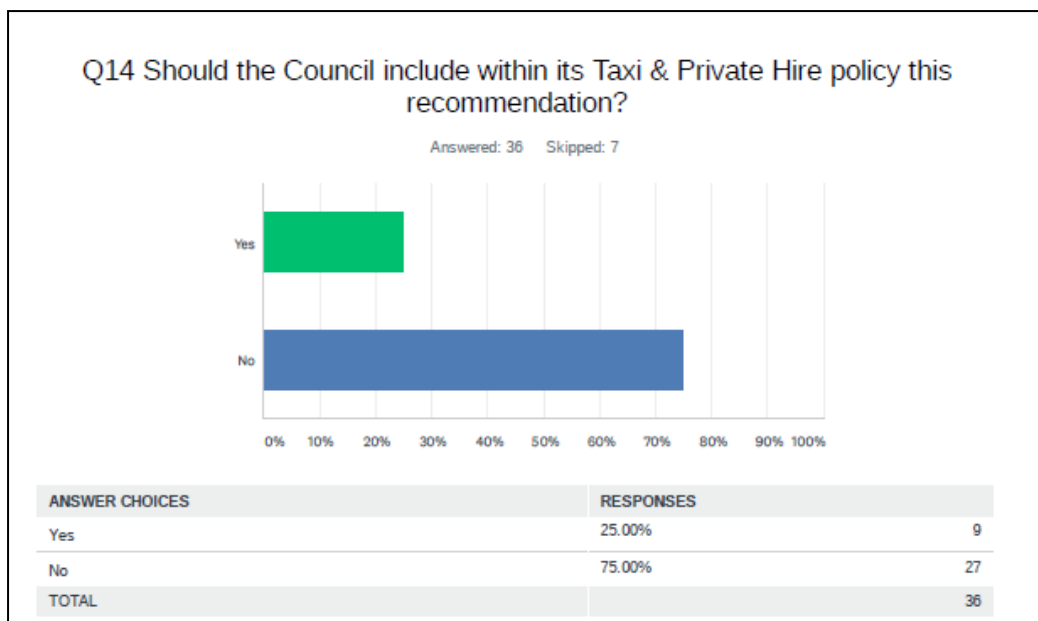
However i think the period should be a minimum of 3years with the conviction classed as spent after 7 years, there needs to be some sort of common sense approach as no two offences are the same, for an example a person may have inadvertently had a pen knife on them and pleaded guilty to this whilst another person may have gone out purposely with a Kitchen knife, same offence different back stories, which i why i believe this should be a scale minimum of 3years spent after 7 years.

I think three year is long enough considering a weapon could be anything. Better to refuse on a case to case basis



Q13 Additional comments on should the Council increase the time period that should have passed from 5 years to 7 years for applicants or licence holders relating to dishonesty offences?

5 years is long enough, If you are dishonest, you shouldn't be a business owner
Again onerous
Honesty is key
There is a lot of opportunities for a dishonest person in the taxi / private hire world, the longer the better.
Why would you want ex,cons ????
Sometimes it can be a genuine mistake where you may have forgot to declare something. So therefore it may be a genuine mistake. Also 5 years is more than suffice.
I disagree with this because what your of dishonesty
Give somebody a chance they may have changed
They have to face the consequences
Minimum standards must be the same for all.
Should follow guide lines
Again dishonesty covers a range of offences. Case to case basis would be better



Q14 Additional comments on - DfT recommends that 5 years since the conviction or completion of any sentence must have passed before a licence will be granted. The Council does not currently have a specific policy regarding driver offences for the use of hand-held devices.

Should the Council include within its Taxi & Private Hire policy this recommendation?

Drivers should already be hands free... pay the money get hands free..
You sometimes need to use a radio pda when driving
Driver has been punished with six points and doesn't need his license revoked for 5 years.
Safety and standards
Minimum standards same for all
The fine and points on your licence is enough.
It is not that seious. 3 points should be given indtead
There is too much confusion around hand held devices including from the police
Let the licensing authority decide.

Any additional comments on the consultation?

NO
The cctv is rediculas , over priced I can acquire and fit myself a four camera recording system ! For a thirdI simply cannot afford the amount your fitters are charging . Not all drivers work 12/13 hours a day !!!!! You are pushing drivers into quitting with theses charges What s wrong with a dual camera 4k dash cam . Records inside and out , one in the front and one in the back !
The current policies are suffice.
No
This policy seems as if you require a graduate to do the job. I understand it's public safety but me myself I am considering a career change. All the rules seem to impact the drivers. We need more policing outside the nightclub
I have been a taxi driver in Craven DC for 30 years. Recently the policy and the way the council works is really harsh. Policy need to be eased rather than strict.

The policy is really strict as it stands compared to other councils. Majority of the taxi drivers in Skipton are reaching pension age. No new drivers are coming as testing is too harsh. Skipton is being developed really fast with more houses going up and more people moving into Skipton and on the other hand drivers finishing the trade we will have a problem.

no

More checks on the driving abilities of the drivers periodically and done randomly

The council already has a very strict policy and this seems to add further issues to make things difficult those who want to join the profession

Whilst all these conditions should be included each individual case should be open to appeal to cover any anomalies or extenuating circumstances.