



LICENSING COMMITTEE
15 September 2022

Report sponsor: Samantha Dennis, Director of
Public Protection & Streetpride
Report author: Angela Rawson, Service
Manager, Licensing

ITEM 6

CCTV in Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles

Purpose

- 1.1 The report asks the Committee to consider the results from the consultation, together with the other supporting Appendices as to whether or not there are local circumstances which indicate that the installation of CCTV in taxi and private hire vehicles licensed by the Council would benefit users and/or drivers taking into account any potential privacy issues.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Committee do not find that there are local circumstances in Derby which indicate that the installation of CCTV in taxi and private hire vehicles licensed by the Council would benefit users and/or drivers taking into account any potential privacy issues.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The purpose of a taxi / private hire vehicle CCTV system should be to provide a safer environment for the benefit of the driver and passengers by:
 - Deterring and preventing the occurrence of crime
 - Reducing the fear of crime
 - Assisting the police in investigating incidents of crime
 - Assisting insurance companies in investigating motor vehicle accidents
- 3.2 From the responses to the consultation and the data gathered from Derbyshire Police and the Licensing Authority there is, at this time, very little current evidence of a prevalence of crimes being committed within taxis and private hire vehicles licensed by Derby City Council. Whilst the data gathered shows that incidents do occur it is noted that when taken together with the number of drivers licensed by Derby and the number of journeys undertaken by passengers in Derby the numbers are low.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The subject was introduced by the Government as a part of the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards. It suggested that all Licensing Authorities should consult on the provision to ascertain whether or not there are local circumstances which indicate that the installation of CCTV would benefit users and/or drivers taking into account any potential privacy issues.
- 4.2 Any CCTV system would be required to be of a high specification so that images were clear enough for use in any litigious purpose.
- 4.3 Some Councils have a mandatory condition for the fitting of CCTV and the appetite is increasing nationally where it is felt to be locally appropriate following consultation. The Council is only able to mandate the use of CCTV in taxis and private hire vehicles if it can demonstrate that it is a proportionate response to local issues which can be justified. This means that it must be more than simply desirable in order to mandate their fitment in licensed vehicles.
- 4.4 More recently, the media has shown that having CCTVs in taxis has proven benefit evidentially in supporting the reporting of crimes such as sexual offences or 'County Lines'. The data gathered lean towards the fact that this is not an issue in Derby.
- 4.5 On 4 November 2021, this Committee resolved to release the subject for consultation. and the results are appended to this report at Appendix 1 together with a summary of the consultation questions.
- 4.6 Appendix 1 shows the results of the public consultation which took place online between 26 January 2022 and 30 July 2022. There were 150 responses from wide ranging capacities with varying content.
- 4.7 Appendix 2 shows a summary of complaints received by Derbyshire Police for the last 6 months. Whilst there are 176 reports listed between 01/02/22 and 22/08/22, it should be noted that some of the incidents may relate to out of town vehicles over which we have no power at the moment. It should also be borne in mind that the data shows a log of calls and not specific events and that anyone could have made those calls. Giving an overview of the numbers, it appears that just over 26% of the Police incidents relate to payment issues, most of those regarding customers making off without making payment. 23% of incidents related to driving standards including road traffic incidents and around 37% of incidents relate to behaviour varying from verbal to reactive interactions between customer, driver and/or vehicle. Approximately 9% of calls relating to miscellaneous items such as lost property. That leave 4% of logged calls relating to more sensitive matters such as refusal of a disabled person, drug reports and comments around possible abuse.
- 4.8 Appendix 3 shows a summary of complaints received over the periods January 2021 – December 2021 and January 2022 – May 2022 by Derby City Licensing Section. The information is broken down into subject matter and it is not easy to say whether or not the addition of CCTV in the vehicle at the time of the incident would have assisted in supporting or refuting the complaint. Such support would be dependent upon such circumstances as the quality of the coverage, the location of the cameras and where the incident took place.

- 4.9 Officers have evaluated the data and are of the opinion that the data collected does not show that there are local circumstances within Derby which indicate that the installation of CCTV would benefit users and/or drivers taking into account any potential privacy issues at this time. The subject, however, is fluid and can be revisited should the situation change or trends identified.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The public consultation took place between 26 January 2022 and 30 July 2022 and was available on our website. The extended consultation period gave further opportunity for the trade, and partners, to engage with the process and submit their responses.

Other options

- 6.1 Should the Committee go against the Officer recommendation and determine that there are local circumstances in Derby then officers should be instructed to prepare a further report outlining the different ways in which it could be implemented in Derby to be brought back before this committee at a later date.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 Should the Committee determine the need to implement CCTV in taxis, the costs of the installation and maintenance of the units would be passed down to the individual vehicle owner.
- 7.2 The administrative element of developing such a scheme would need to be funded by the Council and the Taxi Licensing Team.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards issued under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 place an obligation on the Council to adhere, so far as it is possible to, to those standards. The Standards do not state that CCTV in licensed vehicles should be mandated. The matter remains for the licensing authority to determine based on local circumstances. It could be that the Standards might be drawn upon in any legal challenge to an authority's practice, and that any failure to adhere to the Standards without sufficient justification could be detrimental to the authority's defence.

Climate implications

- 9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other significant implications

10.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Lucie Keeler,	06/09/22
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Samantha Dennis - Director	
Other(s)	Michael Kay, Head of Service	5/9/22

Background papers:	Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) LGA Guidance developing an approach to mandatory CCTV in taxis and PHVs WEB (local.gov.uk)
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 & 1a – questions & results of consultation Appendix 2 – summary of complaints - Derbyshire Police Appendix 3 – summary of complaints – Derby City Council