

**Robinson Ian**

---

**From:** BRYAN TYLER |  
**Sent:** 20 June 2011 10:27  
**To:** Robinson Ian; Brian Gascoyne  
**Subject:** Fwd: Consultation

Hi guys  
Thought i would send you this. Its from a chap that had a serious stroke a few years ago  
Cheers  
Bryan

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Robert Runcie <>  
**Date:** Mon, Jun 20, 2011 at 10:13 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Consultation  
**To:** BRYAN TYLER <>

Hi Bryan,

Had the opportunity to try a Smart car this week end.

The access was fine.

They are very compact, a great little runabout.

Think it is important for someone with reduced mobility to give one a try.

Otherwise fine for one person for a short trip eg to town.

Regards

Robert

---

**From:** BRYAN TYLER [mailto:  
**Sent:** 17 June 2011 06:59

Mohammad Arif  
Associated Adams Taxis  
Station Road  
Peterborough  
PE1 1QL  
11<sup>th</sup> July 2011

**R.E: Proposed variation of Private Hire vehicle Requirements**

To whom it may concern,

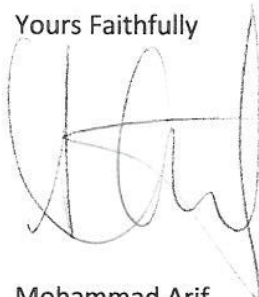
Firstly I would like to say that that I do not agree with this idea like probably a lot of other taxi drivers and owners in Peterborough. This is mainly because when I came into the taxi trade it was quite clear the requirements for private hire vehicle and I have gone with these rules along.

Secondly it will not go in the favour of the Taxi Enforcement as you are altering the rules for someone who has not been in the trade for long and his wishes are being granted in a short space of time. Also just say for example tomorrow someone else comes up with an idea that they put forward to you, will you be doing these changes for them? I have heard of many applications in the past that have not been granted but we have never received a proposition for change.

Finally I would to add that the safety in a "fortwo" Smart Car is not the greatest as I have read in many stories of fatal injuries in minor accidents. I am sure that you have seen this particular vehicle and how small and compact it is. It may not be the drivers fault as over 60% of accidents are always the third parties fault.

There are many vehicles out there that can be passed as private hire. There are also a new range coming out in 2012 with lox CO2 emissions so I do not think that there is a need for this type to available for private hire and for the safety of public.

Yours Faithfully



Mohammad Arif



18 JUL 2011

The Peterborough Hackney Drivers Federation wish to register opposition to the proposed "Smart Car" on the following grounds.

1. Whilst there is no doubt that a disabled person in a standard wheelchair may be able to fit the wheelchair in the boot of the vehicle, there is no room for luggage (i.e. suitcases). Given the fact that wheelchairs are changing and developing all the time there is no provision for a disabled person that is wheelchair bound. The entire hackney fleet in Peterborough is designed to take wheelchairs. The private hire sections of the trade have several vehicles that are capable of taking wheel chairs. There is therefore no requirement to have this form of vehicle operating in the city.
2. Notwithstanding the technicalities of the wheelchair issues, the complications and problems that could very well be raised is that of communicating requirements to the private hire operator with those who are able-bodied. Whereas at present, a customer will telephone a private hire company and request a vehicle for one person and is quoted a fare, it is not uncommon to pick up two or even three people. The fare quoted will at present usually cover up to four passengers. The operator will have to be very vigilant, particularly at peak times of the day and especially at night when alcohol come in to the equation and the driver becomes a target for any confusion. There is a huge safety issue here.
3. There have been various codes of conduct for many years regarding travelling in private hire cars with the emphasis being that for both the passenger and drivers' sake, the rear seat is recommended. This alleviates the chance or risk of accusations of any impropriety by either party being alleged.
4. The current minimum conditions regarding the vehicle specification were produced to ensure that the vehicle is robust enough to take up to

four fare paying passengers in comfort and would be able to fulfill the majority of requirements that a private hire vehicle would be likely to undertake on a day to day basis. The smart car does not fit that specification. It would not be right, proper or fair to introduce a vehicle that only can be used for certain types of journeys without discarding the current regulations which are only upheld by a minority of current private hire operators. Taxi Enforcement Officers have difficulty in policing private hire in this city and non-compliance of the law is fairly rife to say the least. The licensing of this vehicle would create all sorts of anomalies that would be difficult to address, justify, police or enforce.

5. The only point that is in the smart cars' favour is the fuel consumption and its' green credentials. To claim that such savings would be passed on to the customer is naïve to say the least. The private hire companies are at present in a price war that has created major problems throughout the industry involving both the private hire and hackney trade with some owner drivers making so little they are claiming benefits to survive. Further cuts in pricing would be catastrophic for the private hire owner drivers.
6. The majority of current private hire vehicles that service Peterborough are improving their green credentials year on year as newer models replace older ones. The current hackney carriages in Peterborough are all (but one) LTI TX models that have award winning low emissions and very "green" credentials. There are even "greener" models in the pipeline on the purpose built vehicles, designed to do one specific job and that is to transport the public – any member of the public – irrespective of their physical impairment, sight impairment or hearing impairment. Purpose built to carry up to five passengers, and in some cases six.

7. The smart car should be considered as no more than a novelty and, as with all novelties, their time will be short lived. However, consequences of altering the regulations that govern the trade would be longer lasting and may very well destroy the reasons that they were placed there in the first place and that is for public safety.

There is no doubt the technology to produce “greener” vehicles is improving day by day and we shall all benefit in the long-term. However, the only person to benefit from the one passenger smart car will be the owner of it, and that is all!

Brian W J Gascoyne

**Secretary**  
**Peterborough Hackney Drivers Federation**

This page is intentionally left blank