

TO: All members of Council

Our reference CS
Your reference N/A
Contact Claire Skoyles
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6 October 2022

Dear Councillor

Council - Tuesday 27 September 2022

Attached is the written response to the question raised at the above meeting, as referred to in the minutes.

Yours sincerely

Claire Skoyles
Democratic Services Officer
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Council: 27 September 2022 - Written response to question

Item 5: Leader's Statement: Question from Councillor Don Waldron to Councillor John Griffiths:

Councillor Don Waldron asked the following question:

'Is the Leader aware that in 2019 there was an amendment to the Hackney Carriage Act that allowed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle companies to operate taxi buses with up to 15 seats? Has anybody on the Council looked into this and are there any local companies prepared to operate a taxi bus?'

Response from Councillors John Griffiths, Leader of the Council and Andy Drummond, Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Environment:

Thank you for getting in touch with the above enquiry, please find below the response of the Licensing Team.

We can confirm that currently West Suffolk Council does not licence any vehicles over 8 seats and that the Licensing Team are not currently aware of recent, relevant changes relating to taxi buses. It is our current understanding that a vehicle of up to 8 seats a vehicle may be regarded as a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle, whereas anything over 8 seats is regarded as a public service vehicle where the traffic commissioner would have responsibility for licensing.

[PSV \(Public Service Vehicle\) operator licences: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/psv-operator-licences)

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 applies to Hackney Carriages outside of London and is the primary piece of legislation that we refer to in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles. We're not aware of the amendment to the Hackney Carriage Act which you refer to, however we will review the amendment if you are able to supply a link to the legislation/direction to the relevant section.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to email licensing@westsuffolk.gov.uk and an officer will get back in touch to follow-up with you.

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