

il

Update on progress towards Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Legislative change in Wales

Nicolas Turner, Welsh Government and
Yvonne Lewis, Swansea Council

Promoting Excellence in Licensing
@instotlicensing
#NTC2022

il

Welsh Government

What does devolution look like in a taxi context?

- Devolved under the Wales Act 2017
- Current taxi and phv legislation applicable to England and Wales will continue to apply until Wales introduces new legislation
- Recognised need to update the licensing regime to ensure any system is 'fit' for modern Wales and promote public safety
- Non-statutory guidance published in March 2021

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

il

Welsh Government

What does devolution look like in a taxi context?

Non-statutory guidance published in March 2021

- Taxi and private hire vehicles: licensing guidance for local authorities to ensure operators and vehicle drivers meet licensing requirements:
- Developed with LA reps and the WLGA
- Vision = improve public safety, increase consistency and improve the customer experience.....without legislative change AND without unreasonable cost to LA's AND the Taxi industry.

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Local Authority progress

Non-statutory guidance published in March 2021

- Buy-in at Chief Executive level and progress monitored via our All Wales Licensing Expert Panel and Welsh Government
- Quick fixes identified
- Recognition that the recommendations alone will not solve all current challenges with outdated legislation

It is a start!

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Local Authority progress

Non-statutory guidance published in March 2021

Driver recommendations:

- Enhanced DBS checks and use of DBS Update Service;
 - Overseas checks;
 - Group 2 medical checks;
 - Use of NR3 Register;
 - Safeguarding Training;
- Adoption and use of IOL's Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades.

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Local Authority progress

Non-statutory guidance published in March 2021

Vehicle recommendations:

- Introduction of Basic DBS checks;
 - Overseas checks;
- CCTV & Video point of Impact/Dash Cams conditions and checks;
 - Accessibility training for drivers of accessible vehicles

Vehicle licensing requirements differ significantly across Wales, to harmonise these policies and conditions = increased cost ahead of any legislative change

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Local Authority progress

Non-statutory guidance published in March 2021

Operator recommendations:

- Introduction of Basic DBS checks;
 - Overseas checks;
- Consistent conditions to be adopted to include : additional requirement to notify offences and complaints

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Welsh Government commitment in Programme for Government – Next Stage:

- To legislate to modernise the taxi and private hire vehicle sector and address the problems of cross-bordering;
- Informal engagement – Local Authorities, Competition and Markets Authority, Taxi Unions and Private Hire Operators;
- Wider Engagement ahead of formal consultation;
- Issue White Paper

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Welsh Government commitment in Programme for Government – Next Stage:

White Paper Programme...

January
Followed by
3 month consultation period

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Welsh Government commitment in Programme for Government – Next Stage:

White Paper Considerations ...

- ❖ Central Function for Standards
 - ❖ National Standards
- ❖ Enhanced powers of Enforcement
- ❖ National Licensing Database and Register

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Welsh Government commitment in Programme for Government – Next Stage:

White Paper Considerations ...

- ❖ Standardising the application process
 - ❖ One Tier / Two Tier approach
 - ❖ National Fees / Fares
- ❖ Who carries out functions

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Welsh Government commitment in Programme for Government – Next Stage:

Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety Act 2022)

- What is applicable in Wales?
- Intention to streamline with England?

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Welsh Government commitment in Programme for Government – Next Stage:

Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022

- What is applicable in Wales?

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

Welsh Government commitment in Programme for Government – Next Stage:

Dft 2020 Statutory Taxi and PHV standards and Dft Non-statutory best practice guidance 2022 consultation

- What is applicable in Wales?

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022

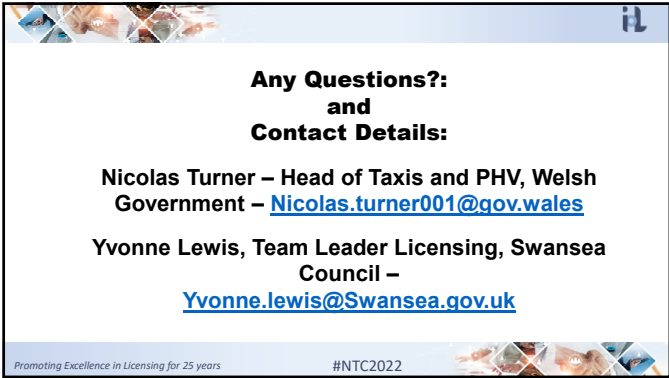
Welsh Government commitment in Programme for Government – Next Stage:

Informal consultation is ongoing with all Sectors

For Discussion:

- National Standards v Minimum National Standards;
- Is Local Discretion Needed – pros and cons
- What does good engagement with all Sectors include;
- Enforcement powers wish list
- What does a National Database look like and implications of introducing

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022



**Any Questions?:
and
Contact Details:**

Nicolas Turner – Head of Taxis and PHV, Welsh Government – Nicolas.turner001@gov.wales

Yvonne Lewis, Team Leader Licensing, Swansea Council – Yvonne.lewis@Swansea.gov.uk

Promoting Excellence in Licensing for 25 years #NTC2022
