



Welsh Government White Paper

Improving Public Transport Across Wales



Introduction

Wales Act 2017

Devolved licensing functions:

- Hackney Carriages
- Private Hire Vehicles
- Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers
- Private Hire Operators

White Paper (December 2018)

- **Part 1** of the White Paper concerns bus services (outside the remit of Licensing)
- **Part 2** concerns taxi and private hire vehicles



Areas of Reform

National Standards

Proposal to introduce a common set of standards throughout Wales in order to obtain a licence



Enforcement

Proposal to allow a licensing authority to take enforcement action against any vehicle operating in its area.



Information-sharing

Proposal to create a database, or make other information-sharing arrangements, to ensure that relevant information can be shared throughout licensing authorities in Wales for the purposes of safeguarding.



National Standards

Help ensure taxi services are delivered consistently across Wales and deal with any perceptions of any unnecessary inconsistency across Councils.

Driver Standards include:

Criminal record checks, medical checks, immigration checks, suitability of applicants and driver training

Vehicle Standards include:

Testing requirements, Vehicle design and appearance, plates and door signs, CCTV and emissions standards

Enforcement

Including provisions to allow authorised officers from any Licensing Authority area to have the power to immediately suspend the licence of a vehicle operating in their area (irrespective of where it was licensed) where there is an immediate public safety risk e.g. defective tyre.

Information-sharing

The establishment of a national database of all licensed drivers, vehicles, operators and dispatchers to support stronger enforcement and to help ensure that those refused a licence by one authority cannot then go to a different authority to obtain a licence, who may not be aware of the licence holder's previous conduct.

May have implications for GDPR that need to be considered

Joint Transport Authority

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Proposal to redirect the existing licensing functions of the twenty two Welsh local authorities into a single national licensing authority.

Licensing functions include licencing, fee- and fare-setting, enforcement, hearing appeals arising from licensing decisions, prosecutions and deciding matters such as whether to apply quantity controls to taxis

Consultation

Two proposed options which they seeking views:

- **Option A** – Implement all of the proposals outlined in this presentation;
- **Option B** – Implement the proposals concerning national standards, enforcement and information sharing but retain the current 22 Welsh licensing authorities.

Consultation Questionnaire

- 16 Questions relating to taxi and private hire vehicles
- Consultation closes 27 March 2019