

## Licensing & Regulatory Committee

Date: 28th February 2018

---

### Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill

Report of the Chief Fire Officer: Mr Paul Hedley

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

---

#### Purpose of Report

To inform Members a relevant Private Members Bill and related activity by the Local Government Association and the National Anti-Fraud Network

#### Recommendations

1. That members note the content of the report

#### Key Issues & Background

1. The above Bill has been introduced into parliament by Daniel Zeichner and MP from Cambridge. The Bill is intended to provide additional safeguards for Licensing Authorities by creating a national database of drivers (the Bill covers both hackney carriage and private hire drivers) who have had their application or application for renewal of a driver's licence refused or who have had their licence revoked or suspended in specified circumstances. The intention is to prevent a driver who has failed to secure or keep or has lost a licence in one local authority are becoming licensed with another.
2. The Bill begins by listing relevant information in relation to a person. This information is that the person: -
3. (a) has committed a sexual offence  
(b) has harassed another person,  
(c) has caused physical or psychological harm to another person,  
(d) has committed an offence that involves a risk of causing physical or psychological harm to another person (e) has done anything that, for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010, constitutes unlawful discrimination  
(f) has threatened, abused or insulted another person,  
(g) poses a risk to road safety when driving, or  
(h) may be unsuitable to hold a driver's licence for other reasons relating to—  
(i) the safeguarding of passengers, or  
(ii) road safety.  
The Bill also covers attempts to, conspiracy to and incitement to commit the offences and aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of the offence.
4. The Bill requires the Secretary of State to establish a database to which all Licensing Authorities will have access. When a driver has their application or application for

renewal of a driver's licence refused or who have had their licence revoked or suspended the Authority will be required to add all relevant information to the database.

5. The information to be recorded includes information to identify the person, (the person's full name, date of birth, home address, national insurance number and driving licence number), contact details for the Licensing Authority making the decision, all relevant dates, and any other information as the Secretary of State may subsequently add.
6. The Authority will be required to search the database every time they receive an application and to review the information that they have added themselves.
7. The Bill also contains a requirement that when one authority becomes aware of an issue with a driver licensed by another authority, they pass that information onto the licensing authority so that action can be taken.
8. The Bill began its second reading on 2nd February, when it received support from across the House, but was interrupted. The debate will resume on Friday 26 October 2018.
9. In parallel to the introduction of the Bill and in recognition of the concerns in this area, the Local Government Association has commissioned the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) to develop and host the database. NAFN is a shared service, hosted by Tameside council, which supports public authorities to tackle fraud and share intelligence. NAFN already provides some services to this Authority and we would be comfortable with them taking the lead on this.

Report Author      *David Sayer,                  Business Compliance & Public Safety Unit  
Manager*  
  
   *01670 623702*  
   [david.sayer@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:david.sayer@northumberland.gov.uk)

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill

LGA Briefing Note on the Bill

LGA Briefing Note on the New Register

## **IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT**

Policy:	The NCC Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
Finance and value for money:	None
Human Resources:	None
Property:	None
Equalities:	None
Risk Assessment:	Not applicable
Crime & Disorder:	Reduces the likelihood that an applicant with a relevant record would be licensed as a

driver.

Customer Considerations: Improved safety for passengers in taxis

Carbon Reduction: None

Consultation: Any change to the policy would require consultation.

Wards: All

Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Executive Director	PH
Portfolio Holder(s)	JR