

1. *In the proposed policy in regards to the vehicle colour change I strongly oppose against changing the hackney carriage colour from yellow to industry standard colours.*

*Although this change in colour would solve issues such as the initial respray of the vehicle I believe it would cause new issues. For example, it would reduce the number of vehicles available when a replacement taxi is required. My biggest concern with the change of colour, in my thirty years as a hackney driver the one thing that the public use to identify a Hartlepool Licensed hackney carriage is the current colour of the hackney vehicles.*

*The general public associate the hackney's vehicles with the colour yellow rather than focus on the vehicle's roundels. It is my belief that a change in colour would cause a great deal of confusion with the general public. This could pose risks that the general public could be accessing unlicensed vehicles within Hartlepool.*

*In the interest of the public safety, I am strongly against changing the colours of Hartlepool hackney carriages. HC Owner*

2. I would like to vote for the colour to remain Yellow for the hackney carriages as I think it will be too much confusion changing it to any other colour it is a huge safety concern for the public on a night out yellow is very easy to spot and everyone knows it is a hackney carriage. Hc Owner

3. *Hi there I am a hackney driver and I drive number [xx]. I strongly disagree with the change of colour to the hackney taxis. This is because I feel like the colour yellow is unique to Hartlepool and also the colour yellow stands out which will help the customers recognise that we are a hackney carriage whereas if the colour change goes ahead I feel like there will be confusion between who's a hackney carriage and who's a private vehicle. This problem may lead to a reduce in customers and we will feel the affect as this isn't the greatest paid job. The colour yellow has been part of Hartlepool for many years and it would be a shame to see it go. Please review the policy carefully.*

4. I would also like to keep the taxi colour as it is now. (HC Owner)

5. *Firstly I have always thought of Hartlepool Hackneys being yellow in colour a great idea, if you see one you can pretty much guarantee that its a taxi and if somebody is a bit under the influence on an evening it possibly stops them from jumping out in front of every car on the road as the yellow taxi really stands out. With the percentage of new white cars currently being 29% I would think you will have more pedestrians jumping out on private cars than ever before. Also being white they will require a lot more exterior valeting at certain times of the year otherwise they will just constantly look a dirty fleet of vehicles. I know this as I also operate a white executive vehicle which has to be washed at least once every day in the winter. (PH Owner and Operator)*

6. Keep the taxis yellow. Taxi drivers can claim any resprays of vehicles back, on their self employed tax assessments & the resprays generate business & employment for others. The yellow taxis are an added assurance for the public that the vehicles are genuine Hackney carriages & they have been a local landmark for Hartlepool for years & they match the

yellow school buses. Yellow is a nice cheery colour & also people can easily spot a Hackney carriage due to its bright colour.

**7. The Change of Taxi's colour was put on 9th of October HLA meeting. The matter was debated and members unanimously voted against change of colour from yellow to any other on safety ground.**

**Yellow is a very distinctive car which stands out at night time and easy for passengers to distinguish from any private car.**

**I as the chairman of HLA on behalf of members put our objection to change of taxi's colour from yellow to any other colours on safety grounds. **Hartlepool Alcohol Licensees Assn****

8. I would like to Register that i would like Hackney Carriages to remain Yellow in Hartlepool  
HC Owner

9. I would like the Taxi colour to remain yellow because I believe yellow colour taxis are the pride of Hartlepool. HC Owner

10. I would like to make representations against the proposal to changing the colour of Hackneys from yellow to black or white. For many years the Hartlepool public have become accustomed to the very easily recognisable bright yellow taxis, they know that yellow cabs can be flagged down and private hires cannot be flagged which makes the streets a little safer as no-one jumps in front of other colour cars in Church Street, Navigation Point causing nuisance to private hire drivers and members of the public who may happen to have a white or black car. Also visitors to Hartlepool often comment on how easily that they can discern a taxi when arriving at the train station or coming out of a hotel. The yellow cabs offer a high level of public re-assurance and will help keep down the increasing amount of unlicensed cars trying to trade in the town.

11. I've had my hackney badge coming up 17 years and I'm proud to drive my yellow taxi ☺, I'm totally against change in colour, firstly the whole point of having yellow taxis is to be distinguishable, to stand out from the rest for safety reasons, everyone knows our yellow taxis, if your on night out you look for yellow to get you home safely, yellow can't be mistaken for any other colour in dark, other colours ie white looks like silver, black looks like navy dark grey brown, them are common, we are Hartlepool we are Yellow. We do not want to be the same as Tyneside, Sunderland, durham county council or any other authority, come on we are Hartlepool and we are unique we are Yellow, secondly when I buy a car I go to Slacks at Middlesbrough my car is normally a couple of years old I know what I want ie Skoda rapid 1.6, it doesn't matter what colour as I'm spraying yellow but same could be said for white car, it's not guaranteed they'll have a white one, I'll have to buy whatever colour and spray that as well. I pay £220 to spray my car so I don't know where £500 - £1500 came from!!!! Thirdly is yellow taxi driver's look out for each other we are noticeable we don't blend in, we keep each other safe, we know who's in each yellow taxi maybe not by name but by sight, we know these drivers are licensed by our council, if we change to white our streets are going to be flooded by out of town taxi's possibly unlicensed drivers, we do not want this we are yellow and should stay yellow, lastly if this Change goes ahead where does this leave the public for at least 8 years they'll not know whether they getting a yellow taxi, s white taxi it'll be so confusing for them, there safety is our priority, that is why we are yellow in first place so we stand out so we are unique, come on Hartlepool leave us yellow, if these people don't want to be yellow go private hire and you can be whatever colour you want, leave us YELLOW HC Owner

12. Colour of hackney Carriages- I had previously signed a petition to change the Hackney Carriages to the colour white. After some careful consideration-I have come to a conclusion

that the colour yellow is and has been the identity of Hartlepool Taxis. This should not be changed as the colour yellow represents our service to the people of Hartlepool.

Vehicle Age Restrictions- Most Drivers are not able to afford to buy a brand new vehicle to keep it for a 8 year period. They have always adhered to buying at max 4 years old and keeping it for as long as the council allows. I feel this is the best way forward and the policy should be kept as it always has been. Many taxi drivers do not have luxury or affordability of changing their car every 8 years. **HC Owner**

*13. In regards to the colour of the hackney carriage my view is to keep it yellow. This is because if it was another colour like white then other companies with the same colour cars can do our street pick ups. Where as at the moment Facebooks taxi and other private hire taxis are picking up from the streets, cutting down our earnings. **HC Owner***

14. I think the bigger issue is the amount of standard white cars owned by members of the public. Whilst we all know that the vast majority of the public are law abiding citizens, it will only take one unscrupulous person, roaming the streets in his white car, to be flagged down by an unsuspecting reveller. This will happen, I have no doubt about that.

You are already aware of the the facebook taxis operating on a weekend, I also realise that this is hard to police but I do believe allowing a standard white car is simply going to take this problem to another level.

Whilst I sympathise with the hackney trade about the extra costs involved painting a car yellow, it clearly identified a hackney, and that has been the aim of HBC for many years now, to protect the public.

Having said that, I do think there is a simple and cost effective compromise. Using a standard white car but, as in other towns, paint the boot and bonnet black. It is massively much cheaper than a full paint job and easily reversible at the end of its taxi life. **PH Owner and Operator**

15. I have been reading the argument for have having hackney taxi a standard colour ie black, white or silver I believe that the yellow taxis is an extra safety measure for clients as there are very few if any other cars on the roads of Hartlepool that colour. Taxi roof signs can be purchased of the internet for a few pounds anyone could purchase one of these and stick it a car and people may think it is a taxi, most people have access to computers and badges door signs could be made - not so easy to have a bright yellow car. When people are intoxicated or vulnerable they generally look for the yellow car and roof sign. I am strongly against having a bog standard colour used for cars that can be flagged down by clients for the safety of the general public. Cars can be sprayed for less £300 in Hartlepool not a lot to pay for the general public's safety and knowledge that they are getting into a licensed, insured vehicle. To go to a bog standard colour will be sending Hackney taxis back 30 years and could be open to exploitation

*16. With reference to the proposed change in colour, I would like to state that the colour yellow is known, and any change would result in possible confusion. Yellow is not a typical colour of most manufacturers and yellow stands out, thus stopping illegal Hackney carriages from being used.*

*Yellow has been known for years in our town as a taxi service and should be maintained for as long as possible.*

17. I think it should keep it yellow the public all no hartlepool taxis are yellow bad weather the cars stand out and if they go white other firms from out of town can come in and do work the public would not no. eg peterlee cars

18. I am assuming this is blueline what is the reasoning behind this? Is it cost? Probably not as it costs approximately £250 to get a re spray not £500-£1500 as reported in the hartlepool mail! The only reason that I can see that they want the colour changing is so that they can bring their hackney carriages from peterlee into the town on a weekend and work the streets as they will be the same colour! This presents a danger to the public of hartlepool as they aren't licensed to work here also it will be taking money out of the pockets of all of the licensed hackney carriage drivers of hartlepool! Why change something that has worked for the past 18 years? Plus whilst talking to customers about this issue a lot of them have expressed concerns about white taxis not being easily identifiable and that there's a real possibility of 'fake' taxis picking up passengers? Is this what the licensing wants? I'm sure it isn't. I hope that you can assist me with this matter **HC Owner**

19. I am in agreement with the fact that the colour of taxis should change to white. This is a much more accessible colour and will allow taxi drivers more freedom when buying new vehicles, as well as saving money which would be spent on spraying the car yellow.

I have also noted that many members of the public were initially against the changing of taxi colour to white, due to issues of safety and visibility. However, I believe this is an unnecessary worry as all vehicles will have a sign, rendering this inadmissible. **HC Owner**

*20. I think we should keep them Yellow as they have been for many years. Passengers which I have had conversations about this all saw think they should be kept yellow as they know which cars they can put their hand out for*

21. I have a feeling that most will want it to stay as it is. But if there's a change I would like to propose White with either a broad blue coach line fully around or, just down the centre of the bonnet and maybe the roof and boot. It could be done with transfers. This would keep them distinctive and avoid the private hire restrictions on White vehicles. Black would be a poor choice, because it would resemble M,bro and Stocktons vehicles. And people sometimes request Black private hire vehicles for funerals.

22. Yellow colour stands out especially at night, both when driving toward you and more importantly at a taxi rank, the costs of painting the taxis yellow should never be put above the safety of the public and should something happen if this restriction were to be lifted you can't say you haven't been warned.

23. The change in colour is unnecessary and costly.

The current yellow colour is distinctive and gives confidence that the car is a bona fide Taxi

White is a very popular private car colour so there is a risk that a private car could be disguised as, or easily mistaken for, a Taxi, especially late at night, putting passengers at risk.

*24. Keep taxis yellow- there's no need to change them*

25. Why change something what isn't broken. Everyone in the town knows what a yellow cab means. Changing it will not only confuse the elderly but also those people who may have learning difficulties.

*26. They should be left as yellow, they are easily identifiable. So for safety should be left that colour.*

27. I wish to express my concern of the proposed change to the colours allowed for Hackney carriages. Being yellow, current Hackney taxis are easily identifiable, it's a rare colour for a normal car, especially the shade, therefore they're easily located in town on a night, and easily flagged down.

There is already a problem in Hartlepool with unlicensed taxis operating, increasing the colours for hackney's allows unlicensed cars to pose as hackneys. As a young woman, I (and many women I have spoken to) frequently use hackneys to get home from a night out, however we would no longer do this if the colours were changed, anyone could wait in the taxi line on the marina, or by the police station, and extort money from an unsuspecting passenger, or worse.

Keep them yellow

*28. They should remain yellow so as to be easily identifiable. The system isn't broken, so it doesn't need fixing. Changes cost money. This system is fine as-is.*

29. I think white should be chosen as the colour for taxi's. White stands out in the dark therefore more easily seen at night.

30. I believe the present colour of yellow for hackney taxis should remain as it distinguishes taxis that can be flagged safely from the roadside.

I don't believe the yellow only rule should be scrapped.

I think the yellow only rule not only benefits the public by making it easier for people to spot taxis in lines of traffic but also provides an important safety aspect. The yellow cabs provide a key visual ease in identifying taxis to which the Hartlepool public are used to.

It is also inadvertently a deterrent to rogue cabs as yellow is an usual colour in a motor vehicle. I believe if cabs were to become white as stated within the proposal it would allow ease of access to same colour cars and make it easier for rogue traders to operate thus putting the general public at unnecessary risk.

31. If it has to happen then it should be something that distinguishes from private hire, so I would suggest white car with blue stripe same as council vehicles or blue car with white stripe. Saves getting a new car resprayed causing devaluation, stripe could be an adhesive one the same as used by hbc.

Should also be phased in to avoid costs to owners.

32. Whilst I understand that painting the cars yellow is something the companies would like to avoid I think it's a very small price to pay for something which helps to keep people safe late at night.

Flagging a taxi down is common for people wishing to get home late at night when some people's decision making isn't at its best due to alcohol.

If a taxi is any colour other than yellow people will be trying to flag down any car which is passing.

This will give opportunities for undesirable people driving around looking too pickup vulnerable people. Please help keep the town safe and keep the taxis yellow.

*33. As a resident of Hartlepool I believe hackney taxis should stay yellow for a few main reasons*

- One, yellow is a uncommon public car colour so the yellow makes them bright and stand out for people with poor sight and easily identifiable from a distance.*
- The taxis that are already yellow and have been for years will have the unnecessary cost of changing to the private owners to whatever colour follows at that's a complete was of money*
- Company's outside of the town such as blue line will destroy local business by flooding in there other coloured cars and will long term drive local firms and local people out of employment and take money to Newcastle and Middlesbrough instead of been spent in the town.*
- Our town should be dementia friendly. And have the yellow keeps with a historical colour in the town taxis and that is easy for elderly who know to look out for yellow taxis and trust that they can climb in them and be safe and changing this Will just confuse them and long term maybe their safety.*

*Hope they stay the same and protects the towns local company's and history, if its not broken, don't try and fix it*

34. Its looking like the public have spoken.

And upon myself asking the owner drivers on the taxi rank.

Its seems 99% want to stay yellow.

I hope you all see the Hartlepool Mail and your own facebook account to see that it's mostly yellow cabs that people want.

**35. Keep taxis yellow.**

36. Please keep the taxi colour yellow. ...we know to trust this colour and easily identified from a distance and at night ....also trust the drivers have been through DBS process. ...I also understand its unique for the town....if it's not broken. ..don't fix it

*37. Yellow in my opinion*

*38. As a hackney driver for the past 17 years I propose they stay yellow the cost for drivers is unnecessary and safety is paramount to the people of hartlepool*

39. Keep all taxi's to YELLOW - allow private hire to have any colour