

25th February 2013

Mr A Garnett
Licensing Manager
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent MF19 4LZ

Dear Mr Garnett

AGE OF VEHICLES

I refer to previous discussions regarding the age of vehicles currently being used as taxis and am writing to give my view on this matter.

It has been mentioned, and several conversations have taken place, regarding the time limit that may be imposed to taxi drivers who have a vehicle 10 years old.

When I purchased my current car in December 2011 we had a visit from you on the taxi rank and I explained my concern that the rumours going about were saying that a vehicle which was 10 years old would not be able to be used on the taxi rank. You said to me "don't worry if anyone has a car over 10 years the owner would be given grace to buy a new car, probably 2 years". Now I understand a new rule book has been printed specifying that this new rule will take place in the very near future and the rumours are that no grace will be given. I feel that this is very unfair as due to the present financial climate I would not get credit for a new car, nor could I afford it if I could. The garage that looks after my taxi for me mechanically wise have said that my car is in good working order and good mechanical order and with respect to my old vehicle which was only 3-4 years old had 170,000 miles plus on the clock was beginning to cost me an awful lot of money in repairs. The present vehicle I have got, which is older, but has less miles is costing me a lot less in repairs as I have already spent a lot of money making it to a very good standard mechanically. The only thing that can make this vehicle look bad is the number plate. Lots of customers have expressed their delight in being in my taxi and those that I have spoken to recently express their anger at these new rules and the undue pressure they are putting on the cab drivers in our town.

My last year's earnings left me with a net profit of only £4,700 which I can hardly survive on let alone buy a new car. I would like you to send me your views on this matter.

As you are probably aware fuel increases are on the rise again, insurances are on the rise again and no doubt there will probably be an increase in your charges, ie plates and badges in the near future. We need help not more pressure.

Thank you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

Mr Paul Dear