

Chesterfield Borough Council

Taxi Consultative Committee

Update from the meeting on 14 January 2015

**Re. Larger size drivers badge**

1.0 Introduction

At the last meeting of the committee a member of the taxi trade suggested the council adopts a larger drivers badge for display on the vehicle dashboard to assist passengers in identifying the driver. The suggestion was prompted by an incident involving a female passenger who alleged she had been molested by the driver of a black and white taxi late at night but could not recall any identifying details of the vehicle or driver.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Hackney carriages and private hire vehicles licensed by Chesterfield Council must already display a number of notices to assist with identification. These notices remain in the vehicle no matter who is driving and ensure the prominent display of the vehicles taxi licence number together with its registered number and licence expiry dates. Each licensed vehicle must display weather proof licence plates to the front and rear, quarter light badges in the rear windows and an internal licence plate (figure 1) fitted on the vehicles dashboard. In addition, the driver must display a credit card sized driver's badge on the dashboard and wear another on their person.
- 2.2 As can be seen, vehicle identification should be straightforward if the vehicle concerned is complying with policy and displaying all the necessary signage. Vehicle signage stays with the vehicle, no matter who is driving.
- 2.3 Once a vehicle is identified it is a straightforward process for the authorities to determine who was driving it at a given time and date.
- 2.4 In the incident outlined above it transpired that that the passenger's consciousness was seriously affected by alcohol and they could not recall how they had got into the taxi in the first place. In those circumstances it is debatable what benefit could have been obtained from a larger driver's badge.
- 2.5 Contact has been made with an officer from the National Transport Authority in the Irish Republic and an example of the larger drivers badge has been obtained, see figure 2.
- 2.5 Drivers in the republic are able to take pre-booked fares (equivalent to a private hire) across the whole country, but can only ply for hire in counties where they have passed the local area knowledge test (equivalent to our hackney carriage). The identification of an individual driver's entitlement is, therefore, a priority. The reverse of the Irish drivers badge describes the operational area(s) where a driver can operate as a hackney carriage; the badge is of a larger size to enable those outside the vehicle to read it from a distance. Drivers also get a credit card sized photo ID which is supplied so they can identify themselves when out of the vehicle.

2.6 The larger badge costs around £3.00 each and a suitable printer would be at least £1,000 (based on the recent purchase of a data card printer for existing CBC driver's badges). These costs would be recovered from taxi licence holders.

### 3.0 Conclusion

3.1 There is sufficient signage on licensed vehicles to identify the vehicle concerned.

3.2 As such a larger drivers badge is not required.

### 4.0 Recommendation

4.1 No further action is taken at this stage but the licensing team continue to monitor the situation and report back to the committee if they feel the suggestion should be progressed.

FIGURE 1 – Chesterfield Borough Council vehicle discard (actual size)



**CHESTERFIELD B C**

**196**

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ABOUT THIS HACKNEY CARRIAGE OR ITS DRIVER, PLEASE WRITE TO :

**THE LICENSING SECTION  
CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE  
85 NEW SQUARE, CHESTERFIELD  
DERBYSHIRE S40 1AH**

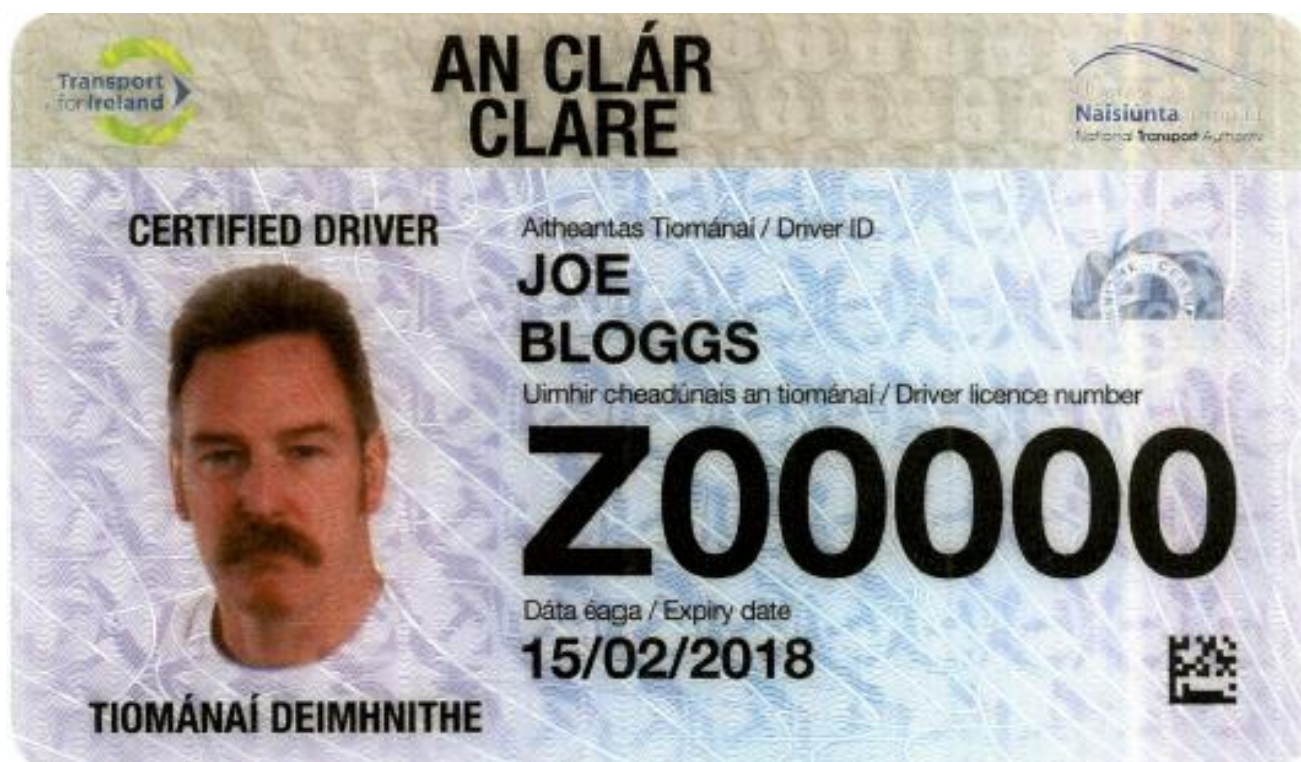
**01246 345230**

GIVING FULL DETAILS AND QUOTING THE NUMBER SHOWN ALONGSIDE.

**REGISTRATION NUMBER**      **EXPIRY DATE**

**KX59 JWZ**                      **03 AUG 2015**

FIGURE 2 – Republic of Ireland drivers badge (actual size)



**AN CLÁR CLARE**

Transport for Ireland

Naisiunta / National Transport Authority

**CERTIFIED DRIVER**      Aitheantas Tiománaí / Driver ID

**JOE BLOGGS**

Uimhir cheadúnais an tiománaí / Driver licence number

**Z000000**

Dáta éaga / Expiry date

**15/02/2018**

**TIOMÁNAÍ DEIMHNITHE**

