

CONSULTATION

Mandatory CCTV in licensed vehicles



Introduction

The Department for Transport (DfT) published its Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards in July 2020 with a strong focus to protect all passengers and users of taxis and private hire transport services.

The statutory guidance makes it clear that the Government expects the recommendations contained within it to be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to. Furthermore, it is noted that the statutory standards document sets out a framework of policies that, under section 177(4), licensing authorities “must have regard” to when exercising their licensing and safeguarding functions.

The licensing authorities in Gloucestershire are seeking views on the statutory guidance’s requirements with regards to CCTV in licensed vehicles.

This consultation follows previous work by the licensing authorities in Gloucestershire to adopt common licensing standards for taxi and private hire drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators.

Responding to the consultation

The consultation will be open **for xx weeks from xx 2022** to xx 2022.

A link to a consultation survey is provided below. If you prefer, you can download a copy of the consultation questionnaire.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

If you are not submitting a response via the survey, your responses can be submitted in writing either by email to licensing@stroud.gov.uk or by post to:

The Licensing Section
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Ebley Wharf
Stroud
GL5 4UB

Privacy Statement

Please refer to the Council’s webpage for more information on how we may process your personal information. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/access-to-information/privacy-and-cookie-policy/privacy-notice>

CCTV in licensed vehicles

The DfT's Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards states that:

"All licensing authorities should consult to identify if there are local circumstances which indicate that the installation of CCTV in vehicles would have either a positive or an adverse net effect on the safety of taxi and private hire vehicle users, including children or vulnerable adults, and taking into account potential privacy issues."

The DfT's view is that CCTV can provide additional deterrence to prevent the potential risk to public safety when passengers travel in taxis and private hire vehicles and has investigative value when it does. Its view is that *"The use of CCTV can provide a safer environment for the benefit of taxi/private hire vehicle passengers and drivers."*

To this end, the licensing authorities in Gloucestershire are conducting an initial consultation to identify if there are local circumstances which indicate that the installation of CCTV in vehicles would have either a positive or an adverse net effect on the safety of taxi and private hire vehicle users, including children or vulnerable adults. In addition, the consultation is seeking views on whether it would be proportionate for the the installation of CCTV to be made a mandatory condition of a vehicle licence. Any decision to make it mandatory condition will take account of the benefits to public safety as well as any adverse effects including potential privacy concerns and costs to the licensed vehicle holder.

Consultation Questions

Please complete the consultation survey if you want to respond to this consultation.

Next Steps

We will analyse the consultation feedback to decide if there is local evidence to support a mandatory requirement for CCTV in licensed vehicles.

Where we consider there to be such a requirement, we will undertake further consultation and engagement with the licensed trade and key stakeholders to develop a CCTV policy and specifications for CCTV systems.

We will continue to communicate with the licensed trade on the outcome of this consultation and next steps.

Proposed survey questions

General

1. Capacity
 - a. Taxi licence holder
 - b. PH licence holder
 - c. PH operator
 - d. Councillor
 - e. Gloucestershire Constabulary
 - i. Specify which department
 - f. Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner
 - g. Gloucestershire County Council
 - i. Specify which department
 - h. Other
 - i. Please specify

Safety of passengers

2. Do you agree that CCTV in licensed vehicles will benefit the safety of passengers using licensed vehicles?
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. Please explain the reason for your answer
3. Do you agree that additional audio CCTV recording in licensed vehicles will benefit the safety of passengers using licensed vehicles?
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. Please explain the reason for your answer
4. Do you have any local examples of when CCTV (video or audio) was or could have been beneficial to the safety of passengers using licensed vehicles?
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If yes please give details

Safety of licensed drivers

5. Do you agree that CCTV would benefit the safety of the licensed driver
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. Please explain the reason for your answer
6. Do you agree that additional audio CCTV would benefit the safety of the licensed driver
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. Please explain the reason for your answer
7. Do you have any local examples where CCTV (video or audio) did or could have benefited the safety of the licensed driver
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If yes please give details

Reducing fear of crime

8. Do you agree that video CCTV recording would reduce the fear of crime
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. Please explain the reason for your answer

9. Do you agree that additional audio CCTV recording would reduce the fear of crime
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. Please explain the reason for your answer

10. Do you have any local examples where CCTV did or could have reduced the fear of crime
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If yes please give details

Adverse effect on safety of passengers

11. In your opinion are there any adverse effects on the safety of passengers, including children or vulnerable adults, by installing CCTV in licensed vehicles?
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If Yes, please explain

Privacy

12. In your opinion are there any adverse effects on the privacy of passengers, including children or vulnerable adults, by installing CCTV in licensed vehicles?
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If Yes, please explain

13. In your opinion are there any adverse effects on the privacy of licensed vehicle drivers by installing CCTV in licensed vehicles?
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If Yes, please explain

14. In your opinion do the benefits to public safety outweigh any adverse effect on privacy
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If Yes, please explain

Costs to licence holders

15. In your opinion do the benefits to public safety outweigh the costs that would be incurred by licensed vehicle drivers by installing CCTV in licensed vehicles?
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If Yes, please explain

Other adverse effects

16. Are there any other adverse effects from installing CCTV in licensed vehicles.
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If Yes, please explain

Local circumstances to support mandatory CCTV

Appendix A

16. Overall, do you think that there are local circumstances that would make it proportionate to make it a mandatory requirement for all licensed vehicle operators to install CCTV
 - c. Yes/No
 - d. Please explain the reason for your answer

Mandatory video only or video and audio

17. If yes to question 18 do you think that mandatory CCTV should be video recording only or video and audio
 - e. Video/ video and audio
 - f. Please explain the reason for your answer

Extra Questions for licence holders

1. Do you have a Gloucestershire County Council Contract?
 - a. Yes/No
2. Do you have a CCTV system installed in your current licensed vehicle?
 - a. Yes/No
 - b. If yes,
 - i. please specify if it is video OR video and audio recording?
 - ii. Are you registered with the ICO (Information Commissioners Office) Yes/No
 - iii. Do you display signage in your vehicle making it clear to passengers that CCTV is on operation? Yes/No
 - iv. Have passengers ever made positive comments about CCTV in operation Yes/No If Yes, please explain
 - v. Have any passengers ever objected to CCTV being in operation Yes/No If Yes, please explain
 - vi. Are you satisfied that the data that you capture on your CCTV is kept secure Yes/No please explain

Other comments

Do you have any other comments to make?