

Jake Johnstone Esq
Licensing Officer
Cheltenham Borough Council

19 November 2023

Dear Mr Johnstone,

Taxi License Application 23/01726/PHIRVA

I am responding to your message of 14 November 2023 informing me I have to make a case to the licensing committee for them to determine if my vehicle application can be allowed since it goes against current policy that any new vehicles be under 5 years of age. As previously mentioned, I was unaware of this new policy.

The vehicle in question, which is a Mercedes Benz E-Class 2.0E, was recently purchased to replace my previous vehicle, also a Mercedes Benz E-Class after its engine broke down irreparably after more than 530,000 miles on the clock.

As you may recall, my business involves high-end, long-distance taxi rides to airports, seaports, major cities across the UK. My clientele mainly comprises families and individuals who I have worked with for many years and include GCHQ senior personnel as well as the principal of Cheltenham Ladies College and other CLC staff members. I have elderly clients who rely on me to take them to their medical appointments, and students at all of the main boarding schools in Cheltenham whose parents rely on me to take them to the airport at the start and end of term. I believe my clients have stayed loyal to me because they know I am reliable and careful and they feel safe. Passengers in my vehicle will also always find a very clean interior, a bottle of water and a newspaper for their journey. The Mercedes Benz E-Class provides a very comfortable ride for long-distance journeys. I can provide testimonials from my clients if that would be helpful.

The new vehicle was first registered on 31 March 2017 and has 58,559 miles on the clock. It is covered by a comprehensive 12-month warranty. Given my previous positive experience with the Mercedes Benz E-Class, I believe the vehicle has many years of useful life ahead. As I am sure you know, the Mercedes Benz E-Class has a reputation for reliability and longevity which is why I chose to replace my old vehicle with the same make of car. Indeed, I would not have been able to afford a newer car of this calibre since the higher cost would have made my business uneconomical.

I note that the underlying rationale of the council's policy is that you can have a high level of certainty that vehicles are of a certain standard, which makes sense to me. I believe that the vehicle in question, notwithstanding its age, is of a very high standard and should meet the Council's requirements that vehicles are of a high standard.

Attached are the documents requested as follows:

- (1) Full service history
- (2) MOT history.

I very much hope that the licensing committee can give me the green light to license my new vehicle particularly since I am the principal bread-winner for my family who rely on me to be able to continue to work so we can meet our mortgage requirements and household bills. At my age, I would find it very difficult to find alternative employment so we are praying for a positive outcome to this application.

Your sincerely

Patrick O'Loughlin