

MIRROR TAXI

THE NEWSPAPER FOR TAXI DRIVERS

LTI VEHICLES AND
GEELY AUTOMOTIVE

All the latest news about
the joint venture
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TAXI TRADE NEEDS MEASURED GROWTH AND TIGHTER STANDARDS



As the taxi trade across the UK faces more and more threats of delimitation, LTI supports the aim of the majority of the trade for measured growth. It is vital that taxi drivers' incomes are not undermined and their ability to maintain vehicles and earn a reasonable living is maintained.

STEADY GROWTH

Authorities such as Manchester, who for years have had a policy of steady growth in numbers which matches the increase in demand, has enabled the trade to invest in newer vehicles and take a pride in their work. Some authorities, especially in the North East, have allowed a whole range of accessible taxis to ply for hire on top of delimitation - to the point where the trade are suffering. Some authorities have found themselves licensing vehicles that have not been tested for any form of type approval and have simply been local conversions meeting no set safety criteria.

BEST SAFETY STANDARDS

Last year the National Taxi Association wrote to all authorities in the UK stressing their opposition to rear loading accessible hackney carriages. This view is supported by many of the major disability organisations and should be accepted by all authorities. Most of the major taxi converters can now meet European whole vehicle type approval standards, as does LTI with its purpose built taxi. This is the best safety standard a local authority can rely on. It makes sense there should be a common standard, which ensures that wheelchair accessible taxis are tested to the same safety standard as an ordinary saloon car.

LTI has always supported the case for the trade to be treated fairly and the Government to understand the needs of the trade in terms of its economic balance. Too many taxis drive down standards, taxis of poor quality drive away customers and nobody wins. There are many examples of where this balance does work well and we hope those authorities considering change, do so carefully and look for the best examples to follow. Naturally the loss of the London Conditions of Fitness in many areas and the lack of clear guide lines from Government has led to confusion about what those standards should be.



TX4
New generation

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