

Independent Taxi Association

Tinted Windows.

We were surprised to read that this had been introduced “in response to requests from the trade”. We do not believe that all the trade had been consulted, and the implications and costs were not properly examined by those wishing to introduce this restriction.

We consider that the rules on tinted windows should be withdrawn or considerably relaxed so that all but opaque glass which is factory fitted should be licensed. In support of this we have the following points.

1. Cars, MPV's and minibuses are not hard to find new and used without tinted glass. Many vehicles have this as standard, particularly black vehicles to keep occupants cool.
2. Vehicles with tinted glass are legal and approved by V.O.S.A. The council's justification for their rule is confirming the wearing of seatbelts. However, this is the responsibility of the adult passengers and not the driver. In York taxis/PHV's will have several notices reminding passengers of their legal duty to wear belts. If the police need to see whether rear occupants are seat belted, then why are tinted windows allowed in private cars?
3. Regarding the carrying of more passengers than licensed for:

We have never heard of this as a problem, nor do we believe that a driver would attempt to overload his taxi and risk his license and insurance.

I note that the buses in York not only have tinted windows (Park and Ride and FTR's) but some have advertising film over the windows. I am sure that the police would have no chance of determining if the bus driver had overloaded his bus with passengers, and this is much easier to do with 50 passengers rather than 4 in a taxi.

4. When sourcing a vehicle, the glass is not marked with its transmittance value, so we have to purchase hoping it will pass. Only once submitted for inspection do we know if the glass will pass. If the glass doesn't pass the current council rules, then we are faced with several days of work and a re-test and £700-1,000 of extra expense to change the glass (if available)

Currently the whole situation is confusing and unsatisfactory and leads to considerable difficulty and expense for vehicle owners.