

York Private Hire Association

The general feeling amongst members of YPHA is that the tinted window ruling does not work and should be either removed altogether or radically changed. All members spoken to felt there was no benefit of the ruling, they felt that on grounds of enforcement the driver could be clearly seen through the front windscreen or front door windows as these have by law got to transmit at least 70% light (75% for windscreens), it was felt that modern car designs prevent little if no view from the rear regardless of the level of tint fitted.

On grounds of safety it was felt there was no evidence to support current legislation, particularly as all tinted windows fitted as standard to vehicles transmit some light and therefore passengers are always visible. Have there been any cases where tinted windows have prevented a crime being detected in a licensed vehicle?

The majority of drivers spoken to did feel that aftermarket tinting and privacy glass (as fitted to limo's) should not be permitted.

It is difficult to suggest an easy policy on this Dick, with new cars it could be accepted that the tint provided by the manufacturer is acceptable but this would not work on used cars, also if you lower the current requirement it still leaves drivers unsure of what is and is not acceptable. The biggest problem is that most cars now come with tinted windows as standard, and quite often clear windows are not an option, this is then compounded by the lack of information on the level of tint in a window. Unless manufacturers are required to give this info when selling a vehicle this situation will not improve.

As you know the YPHA supported the initial proposal on tinted windows proposed by you on the grounds of passenger safety, however since the introduction of this policy we feel that there is no evidence to support this and unless evidence can be provided to substantiate the safety issue then we feel removal of this policy would be the best course of action.