

**REPORT FROM: CENTRAL SERVICES AND REGENERATION
ENGINEERING AND SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER**

TO: TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE

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**FOR INFORMATION:
RESULTS OF SPOT CHECKS**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report, for information, the results of two spot checks which took place on 1 March 2013 and to outline the spot check procedure.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To keep members informed.

BACKGROUND

1. A Scrutiny Review of the Age Limit and Testing Arrangements for Taxis was carried out in 2006/07.
2. One of the recommendations, approved by Full Council, was to aim to carry out three unannounced spot check exercises each year with the cooperation of the police.

ISSUE

3. At a recent consultation meeting held with the private hire and hackney carriage trade, concern was raised that spot checks were not being carried out in turn at Barnoldswick, Colne and Nelson as more tests were being done in Nelson. The amount of time the spot check took was also raised.
4. There is no agreement in place that spot checks will be held at these locations. Spot checks are carried out in areas where officers feel there is a need, which are predominately Nelson

and Colne. Some vehicles located in Barnoldswick get stopped whilst a spot check is carried out in Colne.

5. At the last spot check carried out on 1 March 2013, there was a delay in getting the vehicles checked out. This was due to only one tester being sent from VOSA when there are normally two. It is hoped that more resources from VOSA will be available at the next spot check.

PROCEDURE

6. The spot check is a joint operation carried out with Pendle Council, Lancashire Constabulary and VOSA.
7. The police randomly select hackney carriage or private hire vehicles and escort them to the testing station, which is either Norfolk Street Garage in Nelson or Macadams in Colne.
8. Should that company already have some of their fleet waiting for a spot check, the vehicle will be sent away but may be asked to come back later in the evening.
9. The tester from VOSA will examine the vehicle and if any serious faults are found the vehicle licence will be suspended.
10. Arrangements are made for the vehicle to be re-tested the following day or on some occasions the same evening and once the faults have been repaired the suspension of the licence is lifted.
11. The VOSA tester is sometimes assisted by the mechanic of one of the Council's appointed garages but no vehicle leaves the garage without the final say of the VOSA tester.
12. The results of two spot checks are set out in the Appendix to this report.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: None arising directly from the report.

Legal: None arising directly from the report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report.

APPENDIX

Appendix: Results of Spot Check Carried out on 1 March 2013 at Norfolk Street Garage and Barrowford Primary School.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

**RESULT OF SPOT CHECK CARRIED OUT WITH TAXI ENFORCEMENT, LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY AND VOSA
AT NORFOLK STREET GARAGE, NELSON, ON 1 MARCH 2013**

Appendix

COMPANY	REG OF VEHICLE	RESULT	ACTION TAKEN
4 Star	CV09 GPZ	N/S rear coil spring fractured	Delayed prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 02/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date
4 Star	FL56 CFX	Passed vehicle inspection. Fixed penalty issued by police for blue headlights	
Ace	KF54 FAK	Rear N/S side light inoperative, no first aid kit or fire extinguisher	Delayed prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on same night – suspension lifted as from that date
Ace	WG54 TXD	Passed vehicle inspection	
Cavalier	VK05 WWZ	O/S brake pipe corroded	Delayed prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 02/03/2013. Suspension lifted as from that date
Cavalier	FY09 YDL	Passed vehicle inspection with an advice on rear tyre on limit	
Hire Car MAC Car Hire	ST56 HPA HC 615	N/S and O/S link bars excessively worn	Delayed prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 02/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date
Owner Driver Karamat Ali	YB04 XOY HC 51	Passed vehicle inspection	
Owner Driver Ihsan Ullah Butt	FM07 HME HC 25	N/S bottom ball joint insecure	Immediate prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plates returned on 02/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date
Owner Driver Mazhar Hussain	MV55 YRC HC 13	N/S/F coil spring broken	Delayed prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 02/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date
Street Cars and Pennine	YJ07 MOT	Passed vehicle inspection	
Transporter	YF55 XGN	O/S headlight inoperative	Immediate prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on same night – suspension lifted as from that date
Transporter	SB56 FCG	N/S/F gaiter split, O/S/F cv gaiter split. O/S/F steering gaiter twisted, rear brake pipe insecure, O/S/R and N/S/R brake flexi insecure, two wheel trims missing	Immediate prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 04/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date
Victors	SO04 KVV	N/S rear calliper leaking	Immediate prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 02/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date
VIP	WP51 WZD	N/S ball joint worn, load valve defective, advise on bodywork to be repaired before next test	Immediate prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 02/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date
VIP	HY06 HLN	Drive shaft gaiter insecure, N/S/F wheel bearing excessive play	Delayed prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 02/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date

**RESULT OF SPOT CHECK CARRIED OUT WITH TAXI ENFORCEMENT, LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY AND VOSA
AT BARROWFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL STREET GARAGE, NELSON, ON 1 MARCH 2013**

VIP	DA51 XXD	O/S/F side light inoperative (advise). Rear middle seat belt not working, will not retract	Immediate prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 01/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date
Owner driver Mohammed Farooq	AF05 UJS HC 57	The owner was carrying out a school contract on behalf of UK Cars. He was asked to come back after he dropped a customer off but failed to do so. He was found shortly after having the two front tyres changed at a nearby garage as his vehicle had a puncture coming back from Burnley. He was asked to take his vehicle to Norfolk Street Garage for a spot check where it failed on the N/S/F coil spring which was broken	Immediate prohibition issued, licence suspended – repaired and plate returned on 01/03/2013 – suspension lifted as from that date