



Temporary Protective Screens - COVID-19 Situation

In light of the COVID-19 virus and the impact it is having on the hackney carriage and private hire trade, Wellingborough Council's Licensing Service is happy to work with the trade to enable as many drivers as possible to continue working throughout the outbreak, assisting where possible to mitigate the risks to drivers and passengers of inadvertently contracting the virus.

In response to requests from the trade, asking if it is acceptable to install a protective screen in-between the rear passenger compartment and the driver, the Council are happy to permit, as a temporary measure, the installation of a protective screen.

However, the protective screen:

- **Must not** be permanently installed in the vehicle;
- **Must not** have a solid frame to the screen;
- **Must only** be fitted by way of either Velcro or adhesive fastenings, which can be removed from the vehicle when the screens are no longer permitted.
- **Must** be fitted in such a way so as to not affect the structural integrity of the vehicle, or interfere with any manufacturer fitted safety equipment e.g. airbags; and must not cause the vehicle to become unsafe or unroadworthy in any way.
- **Must not** wrap around the driver seat and create a partition between the two front seats, in addition to the rear cabin area.
- **Ensure** any screen and its fastening/fittings do not pose any increased risk of physical injury to passengers
- The screen **must** be cleaned and disinfected between each fare / journey
- The screen must not compromise or conflict with any DVSA or other legal requirements

The partition used **MUST** be clear and transparent and can **ONLY** be fitted across the rear of both front seats, creating a partition between the front and rear cabin area of the vehicle.

Once a screen is fitted, drivers must advise all passengers to wear seatbelts for their own protection in the event of an accident.

Process to be followed when wishing to fit a Temporary Screen

If any driver wishes to fit a temporary protective screen in their vehicle, they **MUST FIRST**:

- Notify the Licensing Team of their intention to fit a protective screen by emailing licensing@wellingborough.gov.uk together with;
- A written undertaking confirming that fitting the protective screen will not result in their insurer refusing to cover the vehicle and;
- An agreement to remove the protective screen, within a maximum of **21 days** after the current social distancing restrictions relating to COVID- 19 have been removed.

