

From: sittingbournecabs@btinternet.com <sittingbournecabs@btinternet.com>

Sent: 28 July 2020 17:10

To: Taxis (SBC) <taxis@swale.gov.uk>

Subject: Sittingbourne Cabs School contracts / Private Hire

Hi, All

I would like to bring to your attention the need for our business to recruit more drivers specifically in private hire to specialize in school contracts, these part-time drivers would only do set routes for schools only, we have had a lot of interest from people to do just this, transporting students who have various special needs to their schools is the core of our business we adopt a driver and escort allocated route on a permanent basis and meet with students and parents/carers prior to the start of the term so they can get to know them and work out how best to resolve any potential issues. This all helps with a smooth transition and we get a lot of good feedback from parents providing a permanent driver and escort.

Unfortunately the process currently to obtain a private hire badge through the knowledge test is proving to be very difficult, especially the 3 sections on routes part of the test, a vast majority of people who had shown interest in the part-time schools only have not pursued to take the test once they have been made aware of the process involved learning routes, and those who have tried the knowledge test have failed in the routes section and do not bother to re-sit, this has been a problem for us over the last year or so, would a routes section on the knowledge test be necessary for doing school runs only in fact would it be needed for any Private hire licence when its all pre-booked, there are councils that already supply Private Hire badges without doing a knowledge test & they have 1 or 2 years to learn before completing the knowledge test, when your competing with companies licenced in another borough that hands out private hire badges and can supply as many drivers as they can and working in Swale they have an unfair advantage against us, please contact me to discuss at any time.

I would like to propose to the licencing committee to retract sections A, B & C from the knowledge test for Private Hire only.

I look forward to your imminent reply

Kindest Regards
Sittingbourne Cabs