

**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 16 MARCH 2023**

**DRIVER SAFETY ENCLOSURES**

**REPORT OF GREG BICKERDIKE, LICENSING MANAGER, CITY WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PART A – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Committee for a policy to permit the installation of Driver Safety Enclosures (DSE) in licensed vehicles.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to approve the policy to regulate Driver Safety Enclosures.

**3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	No	
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	Yes	
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	No	
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	April 2023	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	
LEGAL ISSUES	No	
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	Opportunity to improve safety for licensed drivers
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

**PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**4. INFORMATION**

#### **4.1 BACKGROUND**

4.2 On 19 January 2023, the Committee approved a consultation on updating its policy to permit the installation of Driver Safety Enclosures.

4.3 Over 1,200 responses were received, with over 75% of respondents being in support of the proposals. The following issues were raised and are dealt with below:

A. Mandatory installation costs - the screens are not proposed to be mandatory, therefore there will be no additional cost to licensees should they choose not to have a DSE.

B. Resale – as the DSEs can be removed, this should not affect resale value.

C. Limitations against extreme violence or violence outside the vehicle – this is acknowledged, however limitations are not a reason to do anything.

D. A barrier to communication – this has been considered previously and is mitigated by the requirement for transparency and holes for audio to transmit.

E. Insurance concerns – this has been considered previously and is mitigated by the policy which requires proprietors to inform their insurance provider.

F. Passengers in the front seat – it is proposed that driver protection would be from all passenger seats.

G. Reduction in passenger leg room/seating capacity – the models researched do not impact on these considerations.

H. Concerns about fitting correctly – this has been considered previously and is mitigated by the policy's requirement for a professional installation.

I. Performance in an accident, including airbag deployment – this has been considered previously and the product's compliance with relevant vehicle safety legislation mitigates it.

J. The enclosure acting as a vector for disease transmission – this has been considered previously and the policy's requirement for the product to be kept clean mitigates it. It should also be noted that many other responses included support for the enclosures as something that would reduce airborne disease transmission.

K. Negatively affecting the customer experience or personal use of the vehicle – this is a consequence of the product that will need to be considered by each proprietor as to whether the benefits outweigh this.

4.4 There were no contributions which required a change to the proposals, included in Appendix 1.

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 5.1 There are no direct costs implications in relation to this policy.
- 5.2 The policy requires that enclosures:
- A. Must be fitted within the vehicle accordance with regulations UN ECE R43.00 and R21.01 and Section 12 of the M1 category DVSA IVA manual.
  - B. Must not be modified from the original manufactured design, without the manufacturer's confirmation that this will not cause any safety issues or noncompliance with the relevant UK and/or EC safety legislation.
  - C. Must not negatively affect any safety equipment, such as airbags, or escape from the vehicle.
  - D. Must be notified to the vehicle insurer as a modification to the vehicle. Proof of insurance cover including the enclosure is required at all times.
- 5.3 An equalities analysis was presented to the Committee when approval for the consultation was obtained. There are no changes to the policy

## **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

19 January 2023 - Licensing & Regulatory Committee – Driver Safety Enclosures Consultation

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

## **Relevant Legislation**

None.

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