



Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham

***Rotherham Town Hall,
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29th June, 2018.

Councillor B. Cutts.

Dear Councillor Cutts,

Council – 27th June, 2018

You were unable to attend the meeting on the 27th June, 2018 so it was agreed to send you a response to your question in writing.

You offered your congratulations at the completion of all drivers licensing and asked what was the current development on having a national system.

I can confirm the Council welcomes the development of a national system. It is the Council's view that, whilst we are confident that Rotherham's licensing regime is one of the most robust in the Country, the current lack of a national system risks undermining public safety and confidence in the licensing regime and the authorities that administer it.

Work being carried out by NAFN Data and Intelligence Services national database capturing all taxi and private hire licence refusals, suspensions and revocations is progressing. The date for implementation was anticipated to be April 2018; however, the Council understands that it has been slightly delayed. Unfortunately an exact implementation date cannot be provided at the moment, but Officers expect it to be implemented very soon.

The new national database will allow Councils to record details of where a driver's licence has been refused, revoked or suspended, as well as check new applicants against the database. This will help to prevent individuals who are not deemed to be fit and proper in one area, from securing a licence in another area by not disclosing their previous refusal or revocation.

The database is being developed and hosted by the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN). Rotherham MBC is already a member of NAFN which means that we will be able to access the database without any additional cost.

The database was initially commissioned as a voluntary register. A Private Members Bill was tabled aiming to making it statutory for licensing authorities to share information about licences they have revoked, refused or suspended on a register, and to check the register in respect of every new and renewal application. Unfortunately this Bill was unsuccessful.

I trust this answers your question, but if I can help further in any way please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Ellis

Councillor Sue Ellis,
Chair of the Licensing Board.