

**RICHARD IVORY, Solicitor,**  
**Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services**  
**Southampton and Eastleigh Licensing Partnership**

Southampton City Council  
Civic Centre,  
Southampton SO14 7LY

Please address all correspondence to:  
**Licensing – Southampton City Council,**  
**PO Box 1767, Southampton SO18 9LA**



Direct dial: 023 8083 3002  
Our ref:  
Your ref:

E-mail: [licensing@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southampton.gov.uk)  
Please ask for: Mr. Bates

Big Brother Watch,  
55 Tufton Street,  
London,  
SW1p 3QL

7<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

***Cameras fitted in licensed taxis and private hire vehicles***

As a result of the decision by the Information Tribunal earlier this year Southampton City Council has suspended its condition to require licensed vehicles to have a camera fitted and acted immediately to ensure systems ceased recording audio. The Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services wrote to you on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 to answer the queries raised by you in your letter of 25<sup>th</sup> February. However, the Council was in any event in the process of a wholesale review of the policy – a process which will now continue with the benefit of the Tribunal decision to inform any decision going forward. As a result of the delay pending the hearing outcome the Council is now undertaking further and additional consultation on the matter and would welcome your views on the subject.

Any system agreed by the authority is expected to have a high level of safeguards in place to prevent inappropriate access to or misuse of data. The Council was the Data Controller with the suspended system and it had a high level of encryption, was only accessed by a small number of staff when a set criterion was met and was intended to protect and reassure both driver and public, assist in the detection of crime and reduce incidents of serious crime. In addition the Council accept there are some individual circumstances that will exempt a licensed vehicle from having a camera fitted.

We invite you to comment on the following subjects, as well as any additional matter you may consider relevant, in relation to the fitting of cameras in licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

1. Whether the condition to have cameras in vehicles licensed by the authority should be mandatory or not?
2. Should the recording of visual data be permanent or triggered? If triggered what controls the trigger and for how long should a recording be? What would be the benefits or disbenefits?
3. Should there be any audio recording and if so to what extent?
4. The choice of Data Controller between the Council and the vehicle owner. What would be the benefits and disbenefits?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

\$xyjupa3b

**If you require this letter or future correspondence from us in a different format (e.g. tape, Braille or disc) please do not hesitate to let us know.**

I would appreciate a speedy response to allow me to report to the Council your views in time for them to make an informed decision. With this in mind I ask you respond by 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013

Yours faithfully,

Phil Bates  
Licensing Manager  
for Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

\$xyjupa3b

**If you require this letter or future correspondence from us in a different format (e.g. tape, Braille or disc) please do not hesitate to let us know.**

Switchboard: 023 8022 3855

DX: 115710 SOUTHAMPTON 17

[www.southampton.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/licensing)