

**Proposed Changes to Current Driver Vehicle and Operators Handbook.**

**Current Rule**

8.1 Advertising and Signage on Hackney Carriages - “A roof light indicating that the vehicle is a taxi is permitted.” THIS DOESN'T ALLOW A FOLLOWING RULE TO BE FULFILLED – 8.2 Advertising and Signage on Hackney Carriages. “The Council wishes to promote both easily identifiable, high visibility taxis”

**PROPOSED RULE**

All licenced Hackney Carriages must be fitted with a centrally located illuminated roof light “top hat” This roof light must extinguish when the meter is in hired mode and be illuminated when “For Hire” The Roof Light should of be of a standardised construction within the following parameters –

- Must between 20 & 30 Inch wide.
- Be constructed of a white plastic, no other colours will be allowed.
- Must featuring the words Taxi – Cab – Car or a company name that also features those words or a company phone number.
- Must be fitted to the centreline of the vehicle, no off-centre signs.
- Must be illuminated when Plying for Hire and no light visible when hired.
- Lights may be LED or Incandescent Filament bulbs but must be Warm or Ice white only.



All Private Hires may choose to have a rooflight fitted, but must follow the style and location rules above, but must only feature the working “ADVANCED BOOKINGS ONLY”

**The reason why?**

As stated above in the current handbook, the council wishes to have easily identifiable and high visibility taxis, yet we currently have taxis operating in the town without roof lights, some with tiny signs and most that are not illuminate. The reason why? Security – safety – identifiability and conformity.

This mismatch of styles, colours, placements and missing altogether is unprofessional, and in direct conflict with rule 8.2 above. Taxis are not a vanity item; they are a licensed public carriage and should be adorned as such.