

## **Temporary Protective Screens: COVID-19**

In light of the COVID-19 virus and the impact it is having on the hackney carriage and private hire trade, Newark and Sherwood District Council Licensing is happy to work with the trade to enable as many drivers as possible to continue working throughout the outbreak, assisting where possible to mitigate the risks to driver and passenger of inadvertently contracting the virus.

In response to requests from the trade, asking if it is acceptable to install a protective screen in between the rear passenger compartment and the driver, The Council's Licensing Authority is happy to permit, as a temporary measure, the installation of a protective screen.

### **However the protective screen:**

- **Must not** be permanently installed in the vehicle;
- **Must not** have a solid frame to the screen;
- **Must only** be fitted by way of either Velcro or adhesive fastenings, which can be removed from the vehicle when the screens are no longer permitted.
- **Must** be fitted in such a way so as not to affect the structural integrity of the vehicle, or interfere with any manufacturer fitted safety equipment e.g. air bags;
- **Must not** wrap around the driver seat and create a partition between the two front seats, in addition to the rear seating area.

The film/sheet used **MUST** be clear and transparent and can **ONLY** be fitted across the rear of both front seats, creating a partition between the front and rear seating area of the vehicle.

### **Process to be followed when wishing to fit a Temporary Screen**

If any hackney carriage or private hire driver wishes to fit a temporary protective screen in their vehicle they **MUST FIRST:**

- Notify the Licensing Team of their intention to fit a protective screen by emailing [request@nsdc.info](mailto:request@nsdc.info) together with;
  - Proof from their insurer that fitting the protective screen will not result in their insurer refusing to cover the vehicle and;
  - An agreement to remove the protective screen within a maximum of **21 days** after the current social distancing restrictions relating to COVID-19 have been removed.

The Licensing team is aware that there are a number of protective screen options on the market which are not expensive to purchase. These when fitted, may give peace of mind to the driver and customer alike during this health crisis.