



We don't want this to be an 'anti-Uber' rant but there's no disguising the fact that it is Uber that primarily take advantage of the cross-border and sub-contracting loophole in the law. We brought this petition because of the legislation that allows Uber to work in the way they do.

We're sure that these laws were brought in with the best of intentions and would probably work well in rural areas where taxis are more scarce.

As in other major cities, the laws do not work in Cardiff!

There are currently 2271 Hackney carriage/Private Hire drivers licensed by Cardiff County Council, it works out at one licensed driver per 150 people in the City. There is absolutely no need for any more taxis in Cardiff.

The knock on effect of these laws has seen a proliferation of 'out of town' cars from as far afield as Sefton in Merseyside, Rochdale, London, Gloucester, Bristol as well as neighbouring authorities – RCT, Newport, Merthyr, the Vale etc. They literally do come from all corners of this country to work in Cardiff.

There have also been vehicles not working on any platform illegally plying for hire, hiding behind the fact so many 'alien' cabs are in the City.

Many of these vehicles have NO markings on them making a mockery of the high standards fought for over many years including highly visible livery and local street knowledge. Alas it will be only matter of time before a vulnerable person jumps into a non licensed car with catastrophic results.

Local enforcement officers are powerless to check these out of town mini cab and drivers credentials. Relying on the Police is also a non starter – they just pass the buck saying it's the responsibility of the local enforcement team.

Another worry is these cars pay insurance for hire and reward (presuming they have it) at a rate based on the area they are licensed in. What if a major claim was made for an incident in Cardiff where they were predominantly operating? Would there be an issue of paying out if the cab was meant to be working in a quiet rural location and was on a far lower insurance premium?

Another issue is that when a Hackney Carriage licensed outside Cardiff, working in the City for Uber, illegally ply for hire. The insurance is then invalid. We have actual examples of RCT Hackney cabs illegally plying for hire in Cardiff.

One driver actually picked up at the National Express coach station – without being booked – and went to London whilst not being insured.

A second driver was plying for hire outside student accommodation in Cardiff – offering to take passengers without pre-booking. Once again uninsured if he picks up.

As this is now an issue Nationally where cabs working on these types of modern apps are travelling miles to operate as they cannot make a living in their licensing areas because of the greed of the operators signing up as many cars as possible despite limited demand.

As the Rotherham cases and others have shown the law needs to be tightened not loosened as the last Governments two hastily added clauses to the Deregulation bill unfortunately did.

Also a Sat nav is no substitute for local knowledge and indeed is distracting specially in an Urban situation where pedestrians, cyclists and other road users need the cab drivers 100 percent attention. As you are aware many postings have been on line of cars from out of areas travelling along pavements, one way streets in wrong direction and even up steps where the driver has not been paying attention.

The law needs to be changed, so every journey either starts OR finishes in the area the vehicle AND driver is licensed and not miles away, this will ensure the local officers have the resources to ensure the safety of the passenger and the general public.

TAXI DRIVERS of CARDIFF