

Press Release Oct 2013

Putting taxi passenger safety first

Taxi operators must protect the safety of the public - that's the message from Denbighshire County Council, North Wales Police and the Vehicle and Operator Service Agency following a joint road safety initiative in Rhyl.

Officers from the Council's Community Safety Enforcement team worked with the police's Road Policing Unit and VOSA, carrying out detailed roadworthiness checks on 11 taxis in the town.

The checks resulted in five taxis being immediately prohibited and suspended by VOSA officers and Council Licensing/ Community Safety Enforcement Officers for a range of issues, including a defective tyre, defective brakes, seat belt, suspension, windscreen and warning lights.

Three taxi drivers were issued with deferred suspensions by Council Officers in relation to taxi licensing conditions, bodywork damage and lighting defects. Deferred suspension is when they can continue to operate the taxi but they have to get some works done or face suspension afterwards for not getting them done.

Councillor David Smith, Cabinet Lead Member for Environment, said: "These operations must send a clear message to all taxi proprietors that Denbighshire County Council, the Police and VOSA are jointly committed to a course of action that will seek out any vehicles that are not fit for purpose. This activity is also designed to gain the confidence of the paying public who use such vehicles and all those persons who use the roads of Denbighshire.

The Council will continue to work in partnership with North Wales Police and VOSA in carrying out taxi and private hire vehicle roadworthiness checks and take appropriate action where necessary".

Sergeant Tony Gatley of the Roads Policing Unit said: "It is disappointing that once again we detected an unacceptable number of offences that resulted in immediate prohibitions with respect to vehicles that were being used to transport members of the public. People however should be reassured in that we will continue with our work in an aim to ensure the safety of everyone who uses the roads of North Wales."

Examples of News Articles

Taxis are targeted in police crackdown

By OWEN HUGHES

DEFECTIVE tyres, no MOT, failing to wear seatbelts and using a mobile phone while driving were just some of the offences detected by officers during a Taxi Enforcement Operation.

Police targeted vehicles at Rhyl and Prestatyn on Thursday alongside VOSA and Denbighshire County Council.

A total of 25 vehicles were stopped, which included taxis and other road users. A number of offences were found including driving whilst using a mobile phone, failing to wear seat belts, no current MOT, defective tyres, and no headlamp.

One vehicle was hauled off the road for a defective tyre while three vehicles were given delayed prohibitions for an oil leak and defective tyres.

DANGEROUS TAXIS FORCED OFF ROAD

'Serious defects' found in cabbie clampdown

By OWEN HUGHES

DANGEROUS taxis have been hauled off the road in a police and council crackdown to ensure the safety of passengers.

Cabbies were pulled over in Denbighshire by officers from North Wales Police as part of an enforcement campaign.

Checks on the roadworthiness of 15 taxis were then carried out, supported by VOSA and licensing staff from Denbighshire council.

Four vehicles were immediately halted due to 'serious defects' and the cabbies told to have the repairs carried out before they can drive them again. Other drivers were given notice to tidy up their

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DAILY POST June 27, 2012

EAST

DENBIGHSHIRE

Taxi firm boss loses his licence appeal

By GARETH HUGHES

A DISTRICT judge has ruled a taxi boss is not a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

Now Drew Bloor, the boss of Yellow Line Taxis and chairman of Denbighshire Taxi Drivers' Association, could face a bill of almost £12,000 after losing his appeal against Denbighshire and Conwy

county councils.

Both authorities, who share licensing services, had revoked Mr Bloor's licences six months ago after it was found that he had not disclosed convictions for minor motoring offences when he first applied for a new licence in 2005. The court also

heard Mr Bloor, of Lon Clwyd, Denbigh, had failed to disclose he had been arrested and interviewed in connection with an alleged serious sex offence in 2000. Though he was never charged he should have mentioned the fact on his Conwy Council form. He claimed the form had been completed



Drew Bloor

by a member of staff.

Tony Rose, representing Mr Bloor, said it had to be conceded he should not have lied about his 2004 convictions but the offences were so minor that, had they been disclosed, he would almost certainly have been granted his licence.

He argued councillors had been wrong to consider unsubstantiated

complaints made by parents that Mr Bloor had been taking photographs outside Cefnmeiriadog primary school - complaints which had led to his suspension last June. But the District Judge said Mr Bloor had perpetrated a fraud each year since 2005 by failing to mention the convictions, and that put his credibility into question.