

Arguments for and against Deregulation

Arguments for Deregulation	Counter Argument
Save cost, time and resource of carrying out unmet demand surveys every 3 years	Taxi trade sponsor surveys
No need to justify reasons to the Office of Fair Trading	
Increase the number of fully accessible taxis in Wyre Forest.	
Protectionist market reduces competition keeping fares higher.	Fares set by the Council are maximum fares - it is open to taxi drivers to set lower rates if they wish
Increase in the numbers of taxis on the ranks in Wyre Forest- increases service and reduces waiting times for the public, also possible increase in vehicles operating at night at peak times.	Congestion at some existing hackney carriage stands
Increased availability of taxis at night would result in shorter queues and fewer problems with rowdies, etc.	Slow to respond to changes in demand.
Eliminates the practice of licence holders transferring their plates for a premium (no value in doing so).	Financial impact on existing licence holders who have invested in their licence, i.e. maintains a 'resale' value of the licence.
Greater competition will result in better coverage as some drivers change place of work to reflect demand, thus reducing availability when there is over-supply and vice-versa.	Reduced custom for existing licence holders
Increased demand for licences will provide an opportunity to apply stringent quality standards	Potential deterioration of vehicle standards: with less income, the vehicle owner may not be able to afford to maintain or renew the vehicle as often or to provide better quality vehicles.
Quality controls will be improved and continue to be enforced	Increased enforcement responsibilities on the licensing team to ensure vehicles are being maintained in a safe condition.
The market will find its own balance and stabilise. As the Council sets maximum fares, overcharging will be avoided (overcharging is more likely to occur where demand far exceeds supply). The Office of Fair Trading compared accident records both in areas that have regulated and in areas that maintain limits - no statistically significant difference	Over supply reduces income for drivers and owners; this could lead to high turnover in drivers and owners and the increased possibility of overcharging and drivers working excessive hours causing problems such as driving whilst tired.

was found to support any concern.