

PE2209/A: Make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles

Scottish Government written submission, 18 December 2025

Does the Scottish Government consider the specific ask of the petition to be practical or achievable?

Taxis and Private Hire Cars (PHCs) are licensed in Scotland under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 ("the 1982 Act"). While the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament has responsibility for this overarching legislation, the day to day administration of the licensing regime is devolved to independent licensing authorities through the 1982 Act powers – in effect the 32 Scottish local authorities.

All licensing authorities have wide discretion to determine appropriate licensing arrangements for vehicles within this areas according to local needs and circumstances and their own legal advice. This includes in relation to the installation of CCTV in vehicles as a requirement of licensing.

Under the 1982 Act powers, this is a matter more appropriately for individual independent licensing authorities to consider.

What, if any, action the Scottish Government is currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition and is any further action being considered that will achieve the ask of this petition?

All independent licensing authorities should actively promote and facilitate good links between the Taxi/PHC trade and the local police force, including active participation in any crime reduction initiatives.

In May 2023 the Scottish Government published updated best practice guidance for local licensing authorities and Taxi and PHC operators on the licensing of Taxis and PHCs and their drivers. I would refer the Committee to the information on 'security' at [Chapter 5 of the guidance](#). That chapter of the Guidance at paragraphs 5.13-5.20 contains information about the installation of CCTV in Taxi vehicles. This information was provided to inform decision-making by independent licensing authorities in this area.

Is there any further information the Scottish Government wish to bring to the Committee's attention, which would assist it in considering this petition?

The Committee will also be interested to know that earlier this year the Scottish Government convened a Task Force on Civic Licensing to review a range of existing licensing provisions of the 1982 Act. One of the licensing policy areas being looked at is the legislation in relation to general Taxi and PHC licensing. It is expected that a report setting out recommendations in relation to the 1982 Act, including in relation to Taxi/PHC licensing, will be presented to the Scottish Ministers by Spring 2026. While

the focus of this group is not specifically CCTV, it may arise as part of their considerations.

Criminal Law, Practice and Licensing Unit