

Meeting of:	Public Protection Licensing Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 18 March 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Homes and Safe Communities
Report Title:	Application for approval as an authorised Hackney Carriage Meter Tester from DHM Taxi Meters
Purpose of Report:	To consider an application from DHM Taxi Meters for approval to test Hackney Carriage Meters for use in the Vale of Glamorgan
Report Owner:	Miles Punter, Director of Environment and Housing
Responsible Officer:	Kirsty Evans, Licensing Team Manager
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	None
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for the Public Protection Licensing Committee
Executive Summary:	<p>To consider an application to approve an additional approved meter tester which will provide Hackney Carriage proprietors in the Vale of Glamorgan with greater choice of approved meter testers.</p>

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the application from DHM Taxi Meters is approved.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To provide Hackney Carriage proprietors in the Vale of Glamorgan with a greater choice of approved meter testers.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Conditions for Hackney Carriage states:

"The proprietor shall produce annually to the Licensing Authority a certificate issued by a meter installer approved by the Licensing Authority stating that the meter is accurate and contains only the current Vale of Glamorgan Hackney Carriage tariff."

- 1.2 There are currently four companies approved to issue Hackney Carriage meter certificates for vehicles licensed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- 1.3 This matter has not been delegated to officers and is therefore a matter for the Public Protection Licensing Committee to determine.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 On 17 February 2025, the Council received an application from DHM Taxi Meters for approval from The Vale of Glamorgan Council to issue meter certificates for Hackney Carriages issued by the authority. The meters will be supplied by Viking Taximeters, Aquila Electronics and Digitax Electronics UK.

The application is detailed in Appendix A.

- 2.2 The applicant has advised that they use the A4226 for their measured mile; the distance between the traffic lights/crossing and the Porthkerry road sign. This proposed measured mile has been checked using two separate online mapping apps and is confirmed as correct.
- 2.3 A template of DHM Taxi Meter's Taximeter Certificate is detailed in Appendix B.
- 2.4 DHM Taxi Meters have supplied emails from Viking Taximeters and Aquila Electronics detailing that DHM Taximeters are authorised agents. These emails are detailed in Appendix C.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** This report has been screened for evidence of the Five Ways of Working and how it may contribute to our Well-being Objectives.
- 3.2** Prevention and collaboration: the purpose of this regulatory function is to protect the public and ensure businesses comply with licence terms and conditions.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** None.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** None.

Employment

- 5.2** None.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states:
“A district council may fix rates or fares within the district as well as for time and distance, all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle; to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a “table of fares”) made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

6. Background Papers

None.

Application for Authorisation as a Hackney Carriage Meter Tester for the Vale of Glamorgan.

1. Company Details

Company Name	DHM Taximeters
Company Address	4 Milton Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid glam, CF47 ODG
Company Telephone Number	01685 314028
Company Email Address	info@dhmservices.co.uk
Company – Contact Name	Richard Jones

2. Additional Details

Is the Company licensed as a Private Hire Operator? If yes, provide details.	No
Is the Company an approved meter tester for any other Council, If yes, provide details.	Yes, Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Ceredigionshire, Powys, Merthyr Tydfil, Bridgend, Caerphilly, RCTCBC, Cardiff, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Monmouthshire, Bath and NE Somerset
Please provide details of the meter companies that you are authorised to test.	Digitax, Aquila, Cygnus and Viking You must provide supporting emails/letters from each meter company confirming you have been authorised to test the meters to include the name and contact details of the company representative signing the email/letter
Please provide details of the 'measured mile' to be used for calibration purposes.	The correct method of checking a vehicle is to setup a given mile within a borough and calibrate the meter to that distance, then add the tariff which may be less or more than one mile. In addition to this we use specialised GPS applications, product knowledge and 15+ years experience and vehicle trip/odometers to double and triple check the vehicles 'mile' to ensure compliance and that the correct fare is calculated.

- I attach a template of the meter certificate the company proposes to issue
- I understand that my application will not be valid until all required information is received
- I understand that I will be required to submit an annual renewal of this authorisation
- I understand that this application will be referred to the next available Public Protection Licensing Committee for a decision

Data Protection Act 2018 and Privacy Notice

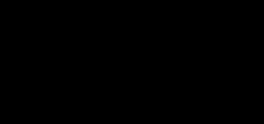
With regard to the Data Protection Act 2018, the Council has a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information that you provided in respect of your licensing application and the data held within the authority for the prevention and detection of fraud. Where required, it may also share this information with other bodies administering public funds and other organisations solely for these purposes. Under Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR, we are permitted to use data for our tasks.

Any data supplied by you on this form will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Act requirements and in supplying it you consent to the Council processing the data for the purpose for which it is supplied. All personal information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used by the Council or disclosed to others for a purpose permitted by law. Visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Working/Public-Notices/Fair-Processing-Notice-Licensing.pdf>

3. Signature Declaration

I have read and understood the above information and confirm that the information submitted is correct to the best of my knowledge

Signature of Applicant	
Printed Name of Applicant	Richard Jones
Position in Company	Owner, Sole Trader
Date	5th February 2025

There is no charge for this application.

DHM Taximeters

Calibration Certificate

Reg. Office: 4 Milton Tce, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 0DG



Registration	Make & Model	Ref
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Taximeter Make/Model		Serial Number
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>

Council	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Rate <input type="checkbox"/> Saloon <input type="checkbox"/> Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="text"/>

Notes	Dealer Stamp
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signed <input type="text"/>	

Taximeter Installations ■ Calibrations ■ Mobile Fitting ■ Est 2007



dhmtaximeters



01685 314028

www.dhmservices.co.uk



RE: Supporting Information for Borough Application (Vale of Glamorgan)



Friday 6 December 2024 at 10:24



To: [Redacted]

Good morning I can confirm that DHM Taxi meters are an authorise dealer for Viking Taximeters and has been for several years. He is regarded as a very trustworthy agent. Richard is approved with several councils to test and seal taximeters and authorised to seal them .If you need any more information on Richard please do not hesitate to call me.

Regards
Harry Derbyshire
Sales Manager
Viking Taximeters



Re: Supporting Information for Borough Application (Vale of Glamorgan)

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To: [REDACTED]

Thursday 5 December 2024 at 16:51

Hi Richard,

Of course I can confirm that you are an authorised dealer for Aquila taximeter products, and have been since June 2016.

My contact details are at the bottom of this email, but are:

Maurice Reid
Aquila Electronics Limited
1, Barley Orchard
Gnosall
Stafford. ST20 0QT



Please let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards

Maurice.

Subject: RE: Supporting Information for Borough Application (Vale of Glamorgan)

Date: Monday 17 February 2025 at 13:20:14 Greenwich Mean Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

I can confirm that you are an agent registered to fit, program and calibrate Digitax taximeters for the Vale of Glamorgan area.

Feel free to forward this response on to the relevant address.

Regards,

Steven Eccles
IT Support & Development Officer
Digitax Electronics UK Ltd

