

**REPORT TO:** Licensing Sub-Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 13 December 2012

**BY:** Executive Director (Support Services)

**SUBJECT:** Installation of Cameras in Taxi/Private Hire Vehicles

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**1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise the Sub-Committee on the installation of SVC 100 GPS front facing cameras in taxi/private hire vehicles

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee approve the installation of SVC 100 GPS front facing cameras in taxi/private hire vehicles in the instances where the insurance company advise the drivers of taxi/private hire vehicles as mandatory

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Licensing Authority received the correspondence referred to in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 It is understood that from the 1 December 2012 that several taxi insurers are making the installation of front facing cameras compulsory.
- 3.3 It is understood that some insurers (see correspondence in Appendix 1) are providing cameras free of charge to taxi and private hire vehicles in East Lothian Licensing Authority if taxi drivers/private hire drivers are insured with them.
- 3.4 The SVC100GPS-LC32 camera is a front facing camera which records external images only along with g-forces and impact speeds in the event of incidents.
- 3.5 The Licensing Authority will be provided access to the data if necessary via Smart Witness and data will only be used in the event of an accident or an offence being reported and the Licensing Authority will be kept informed of the latter.

- 3.6 The cost of the installation and the installation would be the responsibility of the driver and/or operators of the taxis/private hire vehicles.
- 3.7 The Council's Freedom of Information & Data Protection Compliance Officer has confirmed that there are no data protection issues being breached by the installation of the front facing camera in the terms proposed by the manufacturer.
- 3.8 The Council's Transport Service Manager has confirmed he has no objection to the installation of the front facing camera

**4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

**5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None

**7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

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<b>DATE</b>	

26<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**URGENT**

Senior Licensing Officer  
East Lothian Council  
Council Buildings  
25 Court Street  
Haddington  
EH41 3HA



Dear Sirs

**TfL Approved Front Facing Cameras - Markerstudy Insurance Company**

I refer to our letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and note that we are yet to receive your response. Our original letter included a letter from TfL and a product spec.

Over 75% of councils have already replied in the positive and I attach a draft letter for you to use as a template.

From 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012, several taxi insurers are making the installation of front facing cameras compulsory and therefore we do need to receive your comments as soon as possible. We are not recording internally.

I attach a letter from an insurer who is providing £269.99 cameras free of charge to public and private hire vehicles in your area that insure with them. Studies suggest that claims reduce by 35% following introduction of these cameras.

The device itself is smallest in world, lockable / tamperproof / encrypted and is being hard wired in to the vehicle by approved installers to manufacturer standards.

If you have any queries whatsoever please email me at [nickp@smartwitness.com](mailto:nickp@smartwitness.com) or call us on 0844 947 1000

I look forward to receiving your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully

*Nick Plowman*

**Nick Plowman**  
Smartwitness Vehicle CCTV

25- October 2012

Markerstudy House  
43 Westminster Road, Bexley Green,  
Swanswick, Kent TN10 3DB  
Telephone: 0844 374 6900  
Fax: 0844 324 6900  
Email: info@markerstudy.com

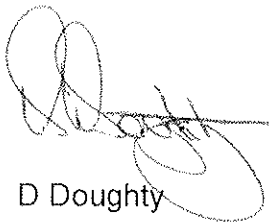
[www.markerstudy.com](http://www.markerstudy.com)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to confirm that with effect from the 01<sup>st</sup> December 2012, we will be launching on a mandatory basis camera technology on all our private and public hire policies. The product is Smart Witness TFL approved SVC100GPS-LC front facing camera technology.

The camera will be provided free of charge to our customers as long as they have a valid private/public hire policy with Markerstudy.

We would appreciate your co-operation in providing written confirmation to Smart Witness that you have no objections to the installation of these cameras.



D Doughty

Head of Taxi  
Markerstudy Insurance  
Office; 0844-264-2211  
Mobile; 07912-053642



Markerstudy Limited  
Authorised and regulated by the  
Financial Services Authority (No. 000010)  
Incorporated in England and Wales (No. 0629100)  
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**Environment**

Community Protection Service

PO Box 502, Vancouver House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 9FW **Tel: (01642) 245432**

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FAO Mr Nick Ploughman  
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Our Ref:  
Your Ref:  
When telephoning please ask for:  
John Hodgson  
25 June 2012

Dear Mr Ploughman

**Smartwitness Vehicle Cameras**

Having considered your request to install SVC100GPS front facing cameras in vehicles, I am able to confirm that this Council has no objections to these systems being fitted in vehicles licensed by this authority.

Should any undesirable features become evident then reserve the right to withdraw authority of installation and use.

Yours sincerely

  
Senior Licensing Officer