

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Hearing 20 January 2026
Date: 02 March 2026 21:31:51

Hearing 20 January 2026

A conversation with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@northyorks.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Message by [REDACTED]@gmail.com on 02/03/2026 21:31

Hi [REDACTED]

IPT tell me they will supply supporting evidence once I have submitted the application. Please use the following for my submission:

I present this vehicle to hearing in order to fulfil IPT contracts. The vehicle will be run under the licensed operator HM Sunley who solely operate school transport within the rural communities of Farndale & Bransdale (ref 275R, 279R). The contracts for these school runs stipulate a vehicle to carry 6 passengers and also the vehicle must be four wheel drive. Replacing a vehicle with the requisites of being under 10 year old, 7 seats and four wheel drive is a sizable investment for a small operator.

The change in the policy to not licence 6 seater vehicles will impact our ability to service school transport in the rural areas. Following the Covid pandemic we are seeing more families move into both dales and our current IPT contracts are near to full capacity. Under the new policy for our vehicles we would be required to buy another two vehicles and employ two more drivers to cover the additional IPT contracts which will be a significant cost to the local authority.

To keep costs down our insurance is instructed that we are licensed to carry school children only. This is noted in the licence documentation from Licencing. Our vehicles are licensed for school children only. We simply do not carry adults, and the rear seats are comfortable and adequate for school children on short journeys to school.

You may be aware the rural roads of Farndale and Bransdale can be narrow and this takes a toll on the wear and tear of our vehicles. We believe the best way forward is to keep our fleet fresh, and newer rather than seeking an extension to our current fleet to 11 or 12 years old vehicles. A 1 year old vehicle looks more professional than a 9 year old vehicle.

I do hope the above is enough to warrant an exception to section 172 of the Private Hire Vehicle Specification so we can move forward offering a service to our rural community.

We appreciate the extra seats are smaller and uncomfortable for the older, taller children however on these rural routes we always use caution to put the younger children in the back. The head rests on the rear seats lift up to allow extra support and keep any luggage stowed in the boot compartment. Integrated Passenger Transport (IPT) will follow up this application with supporting evidence.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]