



KEVIN HOLLINRAKE MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Carl Les
Leader of North Yorkshire Council
County Hall
Racecourse Lane
Northallerton
DL7 8AD

Thursday 30th April

Dear Carl,

Re: Enforcement action by NYC

I wish to raise concerns regarding the enforcement action taken by North Yorkshire Council in relation to the Hansom Restaurant in Bedale.

As I understand, the owners of Hansom introduced a well-intentioned practice of providing free lifts to customers due to the limited availability of public transport and taxi services. As you know, this has subsequently been challenged by the NYC's licensing team on the grounds that such arrangements may fall within the scope of private hire vehicle regulations.

I fully recognise the importance of proper licensing frameworks and the need to ensure public safety, including appropriate insurance and regulatory oversight. However, I am concerned that the current approach may risk discouraging precisely the kind of small-scale, community-minded innovation that local businesses often rely upon in rural areas.

This case raises broader questions about proportionality and the balance between regulatory compliance and supporting local enterprise. Small businesses, particularly in hospitality businesses are already facing significant pressures from rising costs, staffing challenges and reduced transport connectivity. In such circumstances, flexibility from local authorities can make a real difference to business viability.

As you know, NYC plays a vital role not only as a regulator but also as a key partner in supporting economic growth. It is therefore essential that your policies support small businesses and our high streets, particularly where they are acting in good faith to meet local needs.

I would be grateful if you could clarify how the council assesses proportionality when applying licensing requirements in cases involving small hospitality businesses and how NYC is ensuring that small businesses are not unintentionally discouraged from offering community-benefiting services.

More broadly, we should be doing everything possible to support small businesses and I would welcome reassurance that the Council remains firmly committed to this.

I look forward to your response.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hollinrake".

Member of Parliament for Thirsk & Malton