

Responses to Private Hire Licensing Policy, Private Hire Operator, Vehicle and Driver’s Licence Conditions Consultation

Responses Received	Proposed Amendment	Summary of Response	Consideration of Response
<p>Private hire driver</p>	<p>Policy 2.13 – On the initial grant of a private hire vehicle, all licences must be less than six years old from the date of registration.</p> <p>Policy 3.15 – All drivers are required to provide a prescribed certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner and a registered ophthalmic practitioner to the effect that they are physically fit to be the driver of a private hire vehicle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) On initial application; and (ii) Every 3 years* until the age of 70 and every 12 months thereafter. <p>* Unless the driver is restricted to a shorter period for medical reasons.</p>	<p>Deeply concerned about the proposal to make new vehicles 6 years or less on grant. This will only benefit the Council Depot but will cause hardship to drivers in already challenging financial times where there is uncertainty. There will be maximum impact on drivers.</p> <p>The proposal to change medicals from 5 to 3 years will most certainly have a financial impact on all drivers because the cost of a medical exceeds by far the cost of an eye test which is a lot easier and cheaper to arrange. The proposal will place a greater workload on local GP practices as more medical appointments will clearly be required. By increasing the age up to 70 for an annual medical is going against the whole idea of keeping the public safe which is listed under the four objectives.</p>	<p>A concern raised in all responses. Concerns acknowledged and it is recommended to amend the Policy to:</p> <p>‘On the initial grant of a private hire vehicle, all licences must be less than 8 years old from the date of registration’.</p> <p>The Department of Transport taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance recommends medicals in line with the DVLA Group 2 medical standards. The DVLA require that medicals are carried out every 5 years. Opticians recommend that eye tests are carried out every two years.</p> <p>It is recommended to amend the Policy to make it a requirement for medicals to be carried out every 5 years and eye tests every 2 years until the age of 65 and every 12 months thereafter. Both medical and eye tests may be required for shorter periods if the driver is restricted for medical</p>

	<p>Policy 3.12 – to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010, the Council requires all drivers to undertake disability awareness training.</p>	<p>The cost of the training should be met by the Council as it would be absurd if the driver is asked to pay for this after drivers have been paying for years and have more experience on dealing with the public than the Council have. Already attended a session and found it patronising. As a disabled person will use a wheelchair accessible vehicle, only drivers of these types of vehicles should undertake the training.</p>	<p>reasons.</p> <p>In line with Best Practice, it is recommended that the Licensing Authority applies the Group 2 medical standards. The Group 2 standards preclude the licensing of drivers with insulin treated diabetes however exceptional arrangements do exist for drivers with insulin treated diabetes who can meet a series of medical criteria to obtain a licence to drive category C1 vehicles. This Licensing Authority will therefore apply the C1 standards to private hire drivers with insulin treated diabetes. The Policy has been amended to reflect this.</p> <p>The Licensing Authority must comply with the Equality Act 2010. In addition, it is recommended in the Law Commission Report published in May 2014 on the reform of taxi and private hire services that licensed drivers undertake disability discrimination awareness training. Furthermore, the training covers are types of disabilities in addition to disabled people who use a wheelchair. It is recommended to make no change to the Policy.</p>
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<p>Alpha 25 Cars Ace Cars ST Travel Ltd T/A Alliance Private Hire with 23 signatures of licensed private hire drivers</p>	<p>Policy 2.13 – On the initial grant of a private hire vehicle, all licences must be less than six years old from the date of registration.</p> <p>Policy 3.12 – to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010, the Council requires all drivers to undertake disability awareness training.</p>	<p>Excessive compared to the national average and other nearest Councils. Difficult to buy a vehicle for the proposed 6 years due to the financial crisis. The financial burden cannot be passed on to customers as they cannot afford to pay an increased fare. Are other Councils not concerned about safety and providing a professional service? The age limit should be left at current legislation.</p> <p>The training should not be imposed on those drivers who have already completed the training as part of their NVQ.</p>	<p>See comments above.</p> <p>Recommended to make amendments to the Policy so that vehicles should be 8 years on initial grant.</p> <p>It is already stated in the Policy that drivers will not have to undertake the training if they have completed elsewhere. Proof of training will be required. No amendment to the proposal.</p>
<p>Private Hire Operator and Private Hire Driver</p>	<p>Policy 2.14 – A licensed vehicle may continue to be licensed until it reaches ten years of age from the date of first registration.</p>	<p>The condition in the current Policy for wheelchair accessible vehicles should remain the same. There are only a handful of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the District and to change the Policy will mean that there will not be many left as the cost of a wheelchair accessible vehicle is nearly triple that of a normal vehicle.</p>	<p>The condition in the current Policy states that wheelchair accessible vehicles are exempt from the current 8 year rule therefore can be licensed beyond 8 years if they vehicle is in good condition.</p> <p>No evidence that this condition has led to an increase in the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles. No comments received from the public or local disability groups that there is a lack of wheelchair accessible vehicle.</p>

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