

Proposed Taxi Licensing Policy

New Hackney Carriage Licences

1. The issue of Hackney Carriage licences will not be deregulated.
2. Two new licences to be made available every 6 months. New vehicles licences will only be issued to the following types of vehicle in the priority order as follows:
 - those applicants providing a wheelchair accessible electric car
 - those applicants providing a wheelchair accessible hybrid car or wheelchair accessible bio-methane fuelled car
 - those applicants providing a wheelchair accessible CNG, LNG or LPG gas powered car meeting Euro 5 emission standards
 - those applicants providing an electric car
 - those applicants providing a plug in- hybrid car
 - those applicants providing a gas hybrid car or bio-methane fuelled car with CO₂ emissions <100g/km and meeting Euro V emission standard
 - those applicants providing a CNG, LNG or LPG gas powered car with CO₂ emissions < 100g/km and meeting Euro 5 emission standards or euro 3 standard gas fuelled car
 - those applicants providing a wheelchair accessible petrol or diesel car
3. No additional hackney carriage vehicle licences will be issued to 'non wheelchair accessible' petrol or diesel cars.
4. Where there are a number of applicants with cars of the same type (i.e. the types shown above), the order they are issued vehicle licences will be based on the length of time they have been on the waiting list.

5. The two new licences made available every 6 months will be offered to the two people on the top of the waiting list. Everyone on the waiting list will not be able to apply for these licences.

Replacement Vehicles/Reducing Emissions

6. Only the following European Standards will be accepted for new Private Hire applications and all replacement vehicles for both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, as from 1 June 2012 for Hackney Carriages and 1 November 2012 for Private Hire vehicles.
 - For petrol cars – Euro 4 petrol vehicle class
 - For diesel cars – Euro 5 diesel vehicle class
7. A requirement for new taxi drivers (both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire) to undertake an eco-driving course prior to the issue of a taxi driver's licence will be introduced as soon as practical.
8. Subject to the adequate progression with new technologies making the application practical and the introduction of vehicle charging points, a zero tail pipe emissions policy will be introduced by 2021.

Taximeters

9. Taximeters must comply with the Measuring Instruments (Taximeter) Regulations 2006 and must be of the calendar control type which is locked and sealed by an approved manufacturer/supplier and/or installer.
10. The application of any GPS system must provide a comparable level of security for the customer.
11. The new specification to initially apply to new vehicle applications only and subsequently will apply to all existing vehicles, both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire (where fitted) with effect from 1 April 2015.

Livery of Hackney Carriages

12. The recommended colour for Hackney Carriages is black.

Future Developments

13. The council will be sympathetic towards the introduction of taxi buses for use in rural areas and work with possible future providers to investigate how such services may be introduced.