



Basingstoke and Deane

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 – PART II

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

Notes to Applicants

Before a licence may be issued in respect of a Private Hire vehicle the applicant, being the proprietor of the vehicle, must:

1. Complete and submit to the Council an application on the form prescribed by the Council.
2. Satisfy the Council that:
 - (a) the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such licence and to operate a Private Hire vehicle;
 - (b) that the vehicle is registered under the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971, or any re-enactment thereof and that there is in force, in relation to the use of the vehicle, public liability insurance cover of £2m, and a policy of insurance on a minimum of third party basis or such security as complies with the requirements of Part IV of the Road Traffic Act 1972, or any re-enactment thereof. The certificate of registration and insurance together with a motor vehicle test certificate must be available for examination by the authorised officer of the Council;
 - (c) the vehicle is in a suitable mechanical condition, is both safe and comfortable for the carriage of passengers and suitable in type, size and design for use as a Private Hire vehicle;
 - (d)
 - (i) a vehicle will be suitable provided that it complies with the Council's specification for vehicles to be licensed as Private Hire vehicles;
 - (ii) does not resemble a London-type taxicab; or otherwise such design or appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage;

- (iii) be of sufficient seating to carry at least four and not more than eight passengers in addition to the driver. The seating capacity shall be determined in accordance with paragraphs (i) (a) and (i) (b) and paragraph (ii) of Regulation 42 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971 or any re-enactment thereof;
 - (iv) the vehicle be equipped with an appliance for extinguishing fire which must be carried in the vehicle in such a position as to be readily available for use and such appliance must comply with the requirements relating to fire extinguishing appliances for use on public service vehicles and the specification of the British Standards Institution No. 5423 and has a minimum capacity of 1kg;
 - (v) be equipped with a comprehensive first-aid kit containing such dressings and appliances as may be required for use in emergency, such first-aid kit to be located in a position as to be immediately available.
3. A Private Hire vehicle will require a Compliance Test Certificate on first licence and annually thereafter. The vehicle test must be carried out at a certified test centre nominated by the Council.
 4. The licensee must present the vehicle for inspection at such place within the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane and at such time as the Council may by notice to the applicant require.
 5. A Private Hire vehicle between three to five years of age will be licensed annually but tested every six months, over five years the vehicle if deemed in exceptional condition will also be licensed annually but must be tested every four months.
 6. A Private Hire vehicle must be less than three years of age on first licence.

Corporate identity

7. From 15th September 2005 all private hire vehicles (except those exempted) must display the corporate identity. This includes permanently affixed door vinyl's (not magnetic), revised front and rear vehicle licence plates and an internal sticker. The display of the corporate identity will form part of the vehicle compliance test. Front plates will be issued on the renewal of the vehicle licence from July 2005.

Exempted vehicles

8. Vehicles issued with an exemption from the requirement to display the plate are also exempt from the requirement to display the corporate identity. However, these vehicles are only authorised for those journey types agreed at the time of application for exemption.

School contracts

9. Vehicles licensed in order to carry out journeys under school contract work only will not be required to display the corporate identity. These vehicles are only authorised to carry out journeys under the terms of the school contract.

NB: Licensed private hire vehicles carrying out private hire work in addition to school contract work must display the corporate identity in accordance with Condition 4 of the private hire vehicle licence conditions.

Enforcement

10. Licensees found to be using private hire vehicles for hire and reward outside the agreed terms of the licence will be required to display the corporate identity and will be subject to enforcement action in accordance with the Councils' enforcement policy. This may include one or more of the following:

- Informal/formal warning
- Suspension of licence
- Revocation of licence

and /or prosecution.

Notification of vehicle breakdowns which may affect the licence renewal

11. Licensees must notify the Licensing team if their vehicle is going to be off the road for repairs at the time the licence is due for renewal. If a vehicle reaches 3 years of age during the period it is off the road or under repair and the licence expires/lapses without the licensing team being notified of the repairs, the vehicle will be treated as a first application which must comply with all the standard licence conditions with regard to age etc.