BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

POLICY FOR GRANTING OF EXEMPTIONS UNDER SECTION 75(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976.

Pre Application advice

Under section 75(3) of the above Act, a local Authority may, by way of a notice to the proprietor of a private hire vehicle, exempt such a vehicle from the requirement to display plates as required by section 48(6) of that Act and also from the requirement for drivers of such vehicles to wear their private hire driver’s badge as required under section 54(2) of the same Act.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will only provide a notice of exemption from that requirement to display plates in accordance with the attached Policy. That Notice will also exempt the proprietor from having to comply with the licence conditions relating to display of additional internal and external signage.

The Notice will be granted subject only to written application by a proprietor and compliance with the Policy.

This Policy relates to companies wishing to carry out only Corporate/Executive Hire Chauffeur type work and other ‘special’ journeys which require a higher specification and more prestigious vehicle for which a premium fare would be expected to be charged.

This Policy specifically excludes vehicles being used for day to day private hire work such as pubs, clubs, shopping and other similar journeys which must comply with the Act and relevant private hire vehicle licence conditions at all times.

In view of the public safety implications of vehicles working without signage each application will be considered on its individual merits and on its compliance with the Policy.

All applicants wishing to provide vehicles and drivers to carry out work covered by this Policy are advised to consult with the Licensing Team prior to purchasing a vehicle on 01256 844844 or email licensing@basingstoke.gov.uk for advice.
Policy for approving exemptions under section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Approved work for which exempt vehicle may only be used.

1 Corporate bookings to transport employees and clients on corporate business journeys and/or

2 Airport and other 'special' journeys where the client specifically requests a vehicle of a prestige specification at the time of booking and pays a recognisably higher fee for that service compared to that charged for a non exempt vehicle displaying corporate identity.

Approved Vehicle Specification

In view of the vast numbers of makes and models of vehicles available, it is preferred not to produce a definitive list of vehicle makes and models that could be approved. We do not want to restrict any further than those vehicles which do not meet the following criteria.

The approval of an exemption will be based on the cost, reputation, specification, appearance, perception and superior comfort levels of a vehicle and the fact that it will not resemble a non exempt private hire vehicle licensed to undertake the 'normal' day to day role. Each application will be considered on its individual merits but the final decision for approval or refusal will remain with the Head of Community Protection.

1 Saloon and hatchback vehicles to be licensed for 4 passengers only plus the driver allowing sufficient space for adult passengers to travel comfortably.

2 Engine size 2000cc or greater

3 A range of vehicles capable of carrying in excess of 4 passengers will be considered provided they meet the higher specification and original list price required.

4 Vehicles seating more than 4 passengers will be licensed only for sufficient numbers of passengers to travel comfortably. Each seat must be of adequate dimensions and must permit direct access into and out of the side doors of the vehicle without the need to move, remove or fold down any seat. No vehicle modifications from the manufacturer’s specification are accepted.
5 The original list price of any vehicle must be a minimum of £28,000 in spite of its age on application. This minimum price will be exclusive of any extras added at the time of purchase. Evidence of the original new list value will be obtained at the time of application. Officers must be satisfied the evidence provided verifies the original list value.

6 The vehicle must have a minimum specification of at least air conditioning/climate control to front and rear seats, all electric windows, central locking and front and rear headrests sufficient for each passenger.

7 Male drivers are required to wear a suit or jacket and trousers plus shirt and tie at all times. Female drivers must follow an equivalent dress code but will not be required to wear a tie. This dress code must be followed at all times the vehicle is being used to undertake a booking. Jackets may be removed where weather conditions require it.

8 Vehicles should be under 7 years of age at first licence. The decision to grant exemptions for any vehicle older than this will be at the discretion of the Head of Governance.

9 All vehicles licensed under this policy will be inspected on renewal prior to the grant of a renewed licence.