

Newport City Council Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policies

With the implementation date of 1 December 2017



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BACKGROUND

Role of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles have specific roles to play in an integrated transport system. They are able to provide services in situations where public transport is either not available, E.g. in rural areas, or for those with mobility difficulties.

The Aim of Licensing

The aim of licensing the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle trade is primarily to protect the public and to ensure that they have reasonable access to “taxi” services because of the role they play in the provision of local transport. It is important that the Council’s Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing powers are used to ensure that licensed vehicles in Newport are safe, comfortable, properly insured and available, where and when required.

Government Best Practice Guidance

The DfT has national responsibility for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire legislation in England and Wales. In 2010, it issued revised Best Practice Guidance to assist Local Authorities. The DfT Guidance states that Local Authorities will “decide for themselves the extent to which they wish to make use of the guidance or adapt it to suit their own purposes”. There is recognition within the guidance that it is for individual Licensing Authorities to reach their own decisions both on overall policies and on individual licensing matters, in the light of their own opinions on the relevant considerations.

The Government Guidance does not seek to cover the whole range of possible licensing requirements. Instead, it seeks to concentrate only on those issues that have caused difficulty in the past or that seems to be of particular significance. Where part of the guidance is relevant to a particular section of this Policy document, this will be confirmed at the beginning of the relevant section. It will normally be followed by a statement of the Council’s Policy in respect of that specific issue. Consequently, the DfT Guidance has been used to shape this Policy.

Council’s Taxi Licensing Policies and Conditions: all in one place

The Council has responsibility for Licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, drivers and operators within the city of Newport.

To assist the taxi trade, the public and the Council, the various Policies, Conditions and Guidance are incorporated into one document.

Taxi Fees

The provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allow Authorities to set Licensing fees to recover the cost of running the “Taxi” licensing scheme. The cost of licence/fees has to be related to the cost of running the licensing scheme itself. As such the Council will set fees to recover the cost of running its Taxi Licensing Service. The Authority will, of course, justify any charges it imposes, if requested to do so.

INTRODUCTION TO THE POLICY

Powers and Duties

This Statement of Licensing Policy, Conditions and Procedures have been produced pursuant to the powers conferred by the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, as amended, which place on the Council a duty to carry out its licensing function in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

Objectives

In setting out its Policies and Conditions the Council seeks to promote the following objectives:

- The protection of the public, Safeguarding children and the vulnerable and the prevention of crime and disorder,
- The safety and health of the public and drivers,
 - Vehicle safety, comfort and access,
 - Encouraging environmental sustainability,
 - Promoting the vision of Newport.

The aim of the licensing process is to regulate the “Taxi” trade in order to promote the above objectives. It is the Council’s wish to facilitate well-run and responsible businesses.

Status of Policies

In exercising its discretion in carrying out its regulatory functions, the Council will have regard to this document and the Policies and Conditions contained within it and the objectives set out above.

Notwithstanding the existence of these Policies, each application or enforcement measure will be considered on its own merits and in accordance with the Council’s Public Protection Enforcement Policy. Where it is necessary for the Council to depart from its Policies and Conditions, clear and compelling reasons will be given for so doing.

This Document containing all Policies and Conditions will provide those Council Officers and Elected Members who are required to administer and perform the licensing function with appropriate guidelines within which to act.

POLICIES AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO DRIVERS

The statutory and practical criteria and qualifications for a Private Hire driver are broadly identical to those for a Hackney Carriage Driver. The sections below apply equally to Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers.

1. Age and Experience

The guidance recommends against setting a maximum or minimum age limit for drivers provided that regular medical checks are made.

The Council has not chosen to impose either a maximum or minimum age limit for drivers. However, a minimum period of post-qualification driving experience of one year is required. For those over 65 years old, reference should be made to Section 6 below.

2. Topographical Knowledge & Licensing Conditions (Driver Knowledge Tests) Policy

Hackney Carriage drivers need a good working knowledge of the area for which they are licensed, because vehicles can be hired immediately, directly with the driver, at Hackney Carriage stands or on the street. In order to maintain the high standards expected of drivers, a licence to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle will not be granted unless the Licensing Authority is satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person. In this context, the ability to find destinations and read maps is seen a fundamental in providing a quality service for passengers.

In order to determine such fitness, applicants will be required to undertake a test as to their knowledge of:

- **Basic English**
- **Basic numeracy**
- **How to use an A-Z Map**
- **Locations of specific places within Newport.**
- **Hackney Carriage drivers are tested on specific routes without the aid of a map.**
- **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing law.**
- **The Highway Code.**
- **Driver's Conduct (including a section on safeguarding when transporting children and Vulnerable Adults)**

If a driver is not able to complete satisfactorily the test due to difficulties with spoken English, support will be offered to them to seek out opportunities for English language instruction. Applicants who fail the knowledge test will be required to re-sit the test and also pay an additional fee.

3. Driving Proficiency and Qualifications

The Council believes that at present the standard car-driving test provides sufficient evidence of driving competency for the drivers of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles. It is considered that introducing a requirement that drivers pass the specific DVSA Driving and vehicle standard Agency test or indeed any other competency qualification, would not at present produce benefits which are commensurate with the costs involved. However, it is felt that all NEW applicants who have "totaled" up 9 penalty points or more on their DVLA driver's licence (that are unspent at time of the application) will be required to undertake and pass a Pass Plus Course or a course approved by the Licensing Authority and provide a pass certificate (the test pass must be no older than 12 months old).

Where applicants have recently arrived from countries within the European Union or European Economic Area, any driving licence entitlement held in that country will have the effect of automatically counting towards the qualification requirement for the issue of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle driver's licence. Applicants will be required to apply for a conversion of their existing driver's licence to a UK DVLA driver's licence. The Licensing Authority will not issue or renew a licence to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle unless the applicant holds a UK DVLA driver's licence.

Where applicants have been resident in other non-EU countries, it is possible for them to convert any existing driving licence to a UK issued driving licence by passing an appropriate driving test. It is a requirement for applicants to provide to the Licensing Authority with proof that they are legally entitled to work within the United Kingdom.

4. Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons Training

All drivers (including existing licence holders who have not yet undertaken such training) will be required to attend a training session on safeguarding children and vulnerable persons. The training session will cover the conduct and responsibilities of those licensed. In particular, it will provide training in identifying when vulnerable people are in need of protection and how to ensure they are taken to a place of safety and in the event that such action is deemed necessary, the need to report immediately any such incident or occurrence to the police and/or social services. The training provider must be approved by the Licensing Authority (currently the Licensing Authority is conducting its own training). A certificate must be submitted to Newport City Council as confirmation that the training has been undertaken. Certificates will only be accepted by training providers approved by Licensing Authority (recent training sessions to the trade have been provided by the Licensing Authority and Gwent Police.)

New applicants will be required to attend the training at their own expense prior to submitting an application. Drivers and Operators (new and renewal applicants) who have not yet undertaken any training, will be expected to have met this requirement and produced evidence of received such training before 1 October 2017. Failure to do so will result in the driver's licence being suspended until such time they undertaken the training.

5. Disability Awareness

The Council requires all operators and drivers to be compliant with the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010, which has specific sections in relation to Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers and their statutory responsibilities in respect of their service to disabled persons, including those aided by assistance dogs, and non-discrimination towards such persons.

The Council supports vehicles that are able to provide a service for disabled persons and encourages operators and drivers to provide a 24 hour service for disabled persons. The Council strongly encourages the provision of wheelchair accessible vehicles in Newport's Private Hire trade, in addition to the specific policy requirements that all Newport's Hackney Carriages are required to be wheelchair access.

Drivers and operators are expected to have knowledge in safe methods of conveying disabled persons, wheelchair bound or not.

The Council encourages all drivers to attend training on assisting with disabled people; this not only covers people in wheelchairs, but also the needs of people with a wide range of disabilities. Disabilities include: limited or restricted movement, sight or hearing disabilities, learning difficulties and mental impairment. This list is not exhaustive; the provisions of the current Equalities Act will be taken into account when determining if a person is classed as disabled.

Drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles are advised to attend a recognised training course to ensure that they comply with health and safety requirements for handling and securing wheelchairs. The Council may review the licence of any driver/operator who is found to be deficient in disability awareness. The lack of training/knowledge on the part of the driver/operator will not be accepted as a defence to an allegation of inadequate performance/behaviour or discrimination.

6. Medical Examination

The DfT recognises that it is good practice for medical checks to be made on each driver as a condition of the initial grant of a licence and thereafter at each renewal. Adopting 'Group 2' medical standards and applying the C1 Standards to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers with insulin treated diabetes is considered to be best practice. A medical examination by a General Practitioner with whom the applicant is registered and who has access to the driver's medical records, to assess an applicant's fitness to drive a licensed vehicle, is required before a licence will be granted. It is Council Policy that a DVLA Group 2 standard of medical fitness for professional drivers must be undertaken.

A "request for a medical examination" form, which must be presented to the General Practitioner, with whom the applicant is registered, is available from the Licensing Section. The applicant is responsible for paying the fee for the examination to his/her relevant doctor's surgery. On completion, the examination report must be submitted to the Licensing Section. The applicant may on request have a copy of the report.

Licence Holders who have reached their 45th birthday upon application for renewal shall be required to have a full medical examination and thereafter, every 5 years at application for renewal. Licence holders who have reached their 65th birthday will be required to provide a full medical report at renewal and thereafter, every year at application for renewal. In all other cases, licence holders with relevant medical conditions, will be required to produce upon renewal a full medical report annually. More frequent checks will be required if, in the opinion of the Medical Practitioner, it is necessary. Holders of current PSV and/or HGV Licences, who are able to produce proof of a current medical examination, not more than one month old, will not be required to undergo a further medical examination before licensing or re-licensing.

Currently licence holders must notify the Licensing Section of any deterioration in their health that may affect their driving capabilities. Notification must be given in writing and within 14 working days. The Licence Holder will have to either obtain a written statement from their General Practitioner with whom they are registered to confirm that the medical condition does not affect their Group 2 entitlement or to produce a new Group 2 medical. Failure to produce a written statement from the applicant's General Practitioner or a new Group 2 medical within 14 days will result in the driver's licence being suspended.

Where there is any doubt as to the medical fitness of the applicant, the Council may require the applicant to undergo a further examination by a medical practitioner appointed by the Council. Where there remains any doubt about the fitness of any applicant, a Licensing Panel will review the opinion of the examining Medical Practitioner and make the final decision.

7. Disclosure & Barring Service (Criminal) check

A criminal record check on a driver is seen as an important safety measure. The DfT considers that such checks should be at the level of standard / enhanced disclosure through the disclosure & barring service (DBS) as these include details of spent convictions and Police cautions. It is recommended as best practice that DBS disclosures should first be applied for when a licence is first sought and then every three years, even if a licence is renewed annually. Drivers must report all new convictions and cautions to the Licensing Authority in writing within seven days. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 **excludes** Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers. Applicants for such

licences are, therefore, required to disclose all convictions, including those that are regarded as spent under the 1974 Act.

Before an application for a driver's licence will be considered, the applicant must undertake an enhanced DBS disclosure of criminal convictions. New applicants from overseas must obtain a Certificate of Good Conduct from the relevant Embassy. A DBS check and a certificate of good conduct will be required for those who have resided in the UK for less than five years.

The Council is an approved Disclosure & Barring Service body. Therefore, applicants can apply for a DBS (CRB) check through the Council. It should be noted that the Authority will not facilitate portability of DBS checks from one Public Body to another.

A further enhanced DBS disclosure must be obtained and submitted by a licensed driver to the Council every three years. In having a regime which allows for a DBS check on drivers every three years, the Council additionally has system of undertaking DBS checks on drivers on a random basis. It should be noted that incomplete applications for licences will not be accepted by the Authority.

8. Common Law Police Disclosure

Under this Scheme, when an individual comes to the notice of the Police and identifies their occupation as a taxi or PHV driver, the Police are requested to notify the appropriate Local Licensing Authority of convictions and any other relevant information that indicates that a person poses a risk to public safety. Most notifications will be made once an individual is convicted, however, if it is considered that sufficient risk exists, the Police will notify the Authority immediately.

9. Immigration checks policy

The Authority will only grant a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver's licence to those who have the right to work within the UK in accordance with national legislation. Drivers will be required to provide evidence to the Authority regarding their immigration status.

10. Driver Application Procedure

An application for a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver's licence must be made on the specified form. The Licensing Authority will send correspondence to drivers via e-mail, although it should be noted that it is the driver's responsibility to ensure that renewal applications are undertaken in time.

To allow sufficient time for documents to be processed, applicants should ensure that the Licensing Authority receives their complete application, including the fee and any other necessary monies e.g. DBS, at least two weeks before expiry date of a driver's licence. A licence cannot be renewed following its expiry and in such cases, the applicant will be treated as being a new applicant. (Provided an application is submitted within 62 days after expiry, the applicant will not be required to undertake the Knowledge test and CSE training).

All drivers are required to have a current and **valid E-mail address** so the authority can undertake an electronic DBS check and send relevant appointments and reminders to applicants and drivers.

11. The Consideration of Driver Applications

The Council will consider each application on its own merits and in accordance with the Licensing Policies once the appropriate tests have been undertaken and the application form and supporting documents are complete. The relevant elements of the proposed procedure to consider the merits of applications are set out in Appendix A.

The standards expected of licensed drivers are set out in a Code of Good Conduct in Appendix B which should be read in conjunction with the other statutory and requirements of the policies set out in this document. Applicants for licences shall be required to sign a declaration to confirm their understanding and acceptance of the code at their next renewal date, should a licence be issued.

12. Grant and Renewal of Driver Licence

The DfT Guidance recognises that it is not necessarily good practice to require licences to be renewed annually. It sees this requirement as imposing an undue burden on drivers and Licensing Authorities alike. As such Newport City Council has already been issuing drivers with 3 year drivers licences.

The DVLA will be contacted to check the applicant's driving licence for motoring offences. In having a regime which allows for a DVLA check to be undertaken on drivers every three years, the Council additionally has a system of carrying out random DVLA checks on drivers. The conditions which will be attached to a Private Hire Driver's licence can be found in **Appendix B**.

13. Relevance of Convictions, Cautions and Conduct

The DfT Guidance recommends that in considering an individual's criminal record, Authorities must be encouraged to consider each case on its merits, but to take a particularly cautious view of any offences involving violence, and sexual attack. It is recommended that Authorities have a clear Policy for the consideration of criminal records. Policies must address:

- The type of offence
- Number of offences, and
- The number of elapsed years since the offence.

Such Policies should cover applications from drivers outside of the United Kingdom for example, by requiring a Certificate of Good Conduct authenticated by the relevant Embassy.

Both Convictions and cautions are similar in respect of culpability, evidence and admission of guilt. In relation to the consideration of convictions, cautions and conduct recorded against a driver/operator the Council has adopted the Policy found at **Appendix A**. In assessing whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence, the Council will consider each case on its merits.

In relation to previous convictions, the Council will have regard to the following:

- the nature of the offences
- the age of the offences
- whether the offences are relevant
- Relevant duplicate convictions of a similar kind.

Guidance in relation to specific offences is given in **Appendix A**. In general terms, if the offence is recent and relevant to public safety, the application is less likely to be granted.

The overriding consideration for the Licensing Authority is to ensure its statutory duty to protect the public is met. The licensing regime is intended, among other things, to ensure so far as is possible, that those licensed to drive vehicles are suitable persons to do so. Having considered and applied the appropriate guidelines, the following question should be asked:

“...Would you allow your daughter or son, granddaughter or grandson, spouse, mother or father, or any other person you care for or any vulnerable person you know, to get into a vehicle with this person alone?...”

If the answer to this question is an unqualified “yes”, then a licence should normally be approved. If there are any doubts in the minds of those making the decision, then the licence must be refused, suspended or revoked. It is the responsibility of the applicant or existing driver to satisfy the Council the driver/ operator is a ‘fit and proper’ person.

In determining if a driver is “Fit and proper”, the authority will not only base its decision solely on convictions or cautions, but also on a driver’s conduct or any inappropriate behaviour. The Licensing Authority will take into account “soft” intelligence provided by the Police and other partners. The evidential threshold for licensing committees is based on the “balance of probability” and not the “beyond reasonable doubt” standard which is the criminal standard of proof for criminal trials. In short, if the Licensing Panel is 51% certain an applicant is not fit and proper person, it will refuse/ revoke the licence. Further details can be found in **Appendix A**.

The Council has carefully considered recent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) cases within the “taxi” trade both locally and nationally and has considered carefully the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Exploitation in Rotherham 1997-2013 undertaken by Alexi Jay OBE. In particular, in the context of taxis, it should be noted that the Jay report states: “One of the common thread running through child sexual exploitation across UK has been the prominent role of taxi drivers in being directly linked to children who were abused”. It also notes the Casey report (February 2015) into the Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

APPENDIX A

Policy relating to the relevance of previous convictions and other relevant information

Driving Convictions

1. Minor Traffic Offences

Convictions for minor* traffic offences should not prevent a person from proceeding with an application or continue to be licenced. However, new applicants who have 9 or more penalty points applied to a DVLA driver licence will be required to undertake and pass a Pass Plus Course or a council approved driving test and provide a pass certificate (the test pass must be no older than 12 months old).

If penalty points are accrued which result in a period of disqualification of the applicant's DVLA driving licence the **Licensing Manager** will not grant a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licence until 6 months after the restoration of a DVLA licence and the applicant has passed a Pass Plus Course or a council approved driving test.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council-issued licence would normally be revoked or suspended by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

**A minor traffic offence is where the court imposes three or fewer penalty points.*

2. Major Traffic Offences

An unspent conviction for a major** traffic offence will require that the application be referred to the Council **Licensing Panel** for determination. This application may be refused or an existing licence suspended or revoked and/or the Panel may request the applicant / existing driver to undertake a Pass plus Course or council approved driving test prior to the issue or re-instatement of the licence.

3. Major Traffic Offence resulting in Disqualification

Where convicted of an offence which results in an immediate period of disqualification being applied to the applicant's or existing driver's DVLA driving licence, the **Licensing Manager** will not normally grant a "taxi" driver's licence until 1 year after the restoration of their DVLA licence and the driver will also have to pass a Pass Plus Course or council approved driving test prior to the licence issue.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers where their Council licence would normally be revoked by the **Licensing Manager**, the above standard would apply.

*** A major traffic offence is when the Court imposes four or more penalty points or disqualification.*

4. Driving a Motor Vehicle under the Influence of Drink or Drugs

A serious view is taken of convictions of driving or being in charge of a vehicle while under the influence of drink or drugs. An application with one conviction on the DVLA licence under this category will be accepted provided a 1 year period has elapsed since the restoration of applicant's DVLA licence. More than one conviction of this type and the application will normally be refused by **Licensing Manager** for 5 years after the restoration of applicant's DVLA licence

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council licence would normally be revoked by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

5. Failure to report a disqualification

It may be the case that the driver's disqualification period is now out of this part of driving convictions criteria by the time the failure to report is uncovered. By being dishonest, the licence holder has evaded the best intentions of the policy and in such circumstances the 'start date' for the application of this part of the policy would become effective from the date the Council first became aware of the period of disqualification. Failure to report such a disqualification will normally result in the driver licence being suspended or revoked by **Licensing Manager** and the period of suspension or revocation will not normally be less than had the disqualification been properly reported to the Council.

Where false declarations have been made at the time of application or renewal, these may also be considered under the 'fit and proper' person assessment by a **Licensing Panel**.

6. Offences under the Town Police Clauses Act 1947 and Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

One of the main purposes of the Licensing regime set out in the above named Acts is to ensure the protection of the public. For this reason, a serious view is taken of convictions for offences under these Acts when deciding whether a person is to be considered 'fit and proper' to hold a licence. All applications regarding under the Town Police Clauses Act 1947 and Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, will be determined by the **Licensing Panel**.

7. Equality Act offences

Equality Act offences (Sections 168 and 171 of the Equality Act 2010) require Hackney Carriages & Private Hire drivers to carry guide, hearing and other assistance dogs accompanying disabled people and to do so without any additional charge.

Section 165 of Equality Act 2010 places duties on drivers of 'designated' wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles.

One incident of this type would call into question whether or not that person is a 'fit and proper' to hold or retain a licence. An applicant will normally be refused a licence where he or she has been convicted of a Level 3 or above offence under the Act. The minimum refusal will be for a period of 5 days to 1 month on first offence and 6 months to 2 years, if the applicant has more than one conviction within five years preceding the date of the applicant's appearance before the **Licensing Panel**.

All applications with issues covered by Equality Act will be determined by the **Licensing Panel**. Existing licensed drivers receiving a conviction may have their licence revoked or suspended in accordance with the above standard by the **Licensing Panel**.

8. Offences involving violence

Licensed drivers have close frequent contact with the public. A firm line is taken with those who have conviction/ cautioned for offences involving violence. An application will normally be refused by the **Licensing Manager** if the applicant has a conviction for an offence that involved the loss of life.

8.1 Category A

A licence will not be granted where the applicant has a conviction for an offence such as:

- Murder, • Manslaughter, • Manslaughter or culpable homicide while driving,
- Terrorism offences, • Any offences (including attempted or conspiracy to commit offences) that are similar to those above.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council “taxi” licence would normally be revoked by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

8.2 Category B

An application will normally be refused by the **Licensing Manager** if the applicant has a conviction for an offence of:

- Arson, • Malicious wounding or grievous bodily harm which is racially aggravated
- Grievous bodily harm, • Robbery, • Possession of firearm
- Riot, • Assault Police Officer.

However, consideration may be given to the granting / issuing of a licence if at least 10 years have passed since the completion of any sentence and / or licence period following conviction/ caution

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council licence will normally be revoked by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

8.3 Category C

An application will normally be refused by the **Licensing Manager** if the applicant has a conviction for an offence of:

- Actual bodily harm
- Racially-aggravated criminal damage
- Racially-aggravated (fear or provocation of violence)
- Racially-aggravated public order (intentional harassment, alarm or distress)
- Racially-aggravated harassment (putting people in fear of violence)
- Any other similar offences including attempted or conspiracy to commit offences that replace the above.

Consideration may only be given to the granting / issuing of a licence if at least 5 years have passed since the completion of any sentence and / or licence period following conviction/ caution.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council licence will normally be revoked by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

8.4 Category D

An application will normally be refused by the **Licensing Manager** if the applicant has a conviction for an offence of:

- Violent disorder, • Resisting arrest, • Any racially-aggravated offence against a person or property, • Common assault, • Affray, • Any Public Order Act offence (harassment, alarm or distress, intentional harassment or fear of provocation of violence),
- Any offences (including attempted or conspiracy to commit offences) that are similar to those above. Consideration may only be given to the granting / issuing of a licence by **Licensing Manager** if at least 3 years have passed since the completion of any sentence and / or licence period following conviction/ caution.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council licence will normally be revoked by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

8.5 Category E:

Consideration may only be given to the granting / issuing of a licence by the **Licensing Panel** following conviction/ caution for an offence for:

- Obstruction
- Criminal damage
- Any racially-aggravated offence against a person or property,
- Any offences (including attempted or conspiracy to commit offences) that are similar to those above.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, the **Licensing Panel** will determine whether their licence should be suspended or revoked and the above standard would apply.

8.5 Category F:

An application will be refused by the **Licensing Manager** if the applicant has a conviction for an offence of:

- Possession of a weapon or any other weapon related offence,

This will give serious concern as to whether the person is fit to carry the public. However, depending on the circumstances of the offence, at least 3 years must have passed since the completion of the sentence, before a licence is granted by **Licensing Manager**.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council licence will normally be revoked by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

9. Domestic Violence / Offences

Any offence that may be categorised as domestic violence will be determined by the **Licensing Panel** and treated on its merits.

10. Sexual and indecency offences

As licensed drivers often carry unaccompanied and vulnerable passengers, the Council will take a strong line in relation to applicants or existing licence holders with convictions for sexual offences. All sexual and indecency offences will be considered as serious. Applicants with convictions for sexual or indecency offences that involve a third party will have their licence refused by the **Licensing Manager**. Such offences include:

- Rape, • Assault by penetration, • Offences involving children or vulnerable adults
- Trafficking, sexual abuse against children and / or vulnerable adults and preparatory offences (as defined within the Sexual Offences Act 2003),
- Making or distributing obscene material, • Possession of indecent photographs depicting child pornography.
- Sexual assault, • Indecent assault, • Exploitation of prostitution, • Soliciting (kerb crawling)
- Indecent exposure ,
- Any similar offences (including attempted or conspiracy to commit) offences which replace the above

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council issued licence will normally be revoked by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

11. Dishonesty

A licensed PHV or taxi driver is expected to be trustworthy. In the course of their working duties drivers will deal with cash transactions and valuable property may be left in their vehicles. Drivers may well deal with customers who are vulnerable or intoxicated and potentially easily confused. For these reasons, a serious view is taken of any conviction involving dishonesty.

In general, a minimum period of 2 years free of conviction / caution, or at least 5 years have passed since the completion of prison sentence (suspended or otherwise) will be required before a licence is granted by the **Licensing Manager**. Offences involving dishonesty include:

- theft, • burglary, • fraud • benefit fraud • handling or receiving stolen goods
- forgery • conspiracy to defraud • obtaining money or property by deception
- other deception • taking a vehicle without consent
- or any similar offences (including attempted or conspiracy to commit) offences which replace the above

Applicants or existing licence holders that are found to have intentionally misled the Council, or lied as part of the application process, will not be issued with a licence.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council issued "Taxi" licence will normally be revoked or suspended by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

12. Drugs

A serious view is taken of any drug related offence. Taking drugs and driving poses an obvious risk to public safety. Applicants who have convictions for the supply of drugs will also be treated with considerable concern. The nature and quantity of the drugs, whether for personal use or supply will be considered.

Because of the nature of a driver's involvement with the public, a licence will not be granted where the applicant has a conviction for an offence related to the supply of drugs.

A licence will be normally refused by **Licensing Manager** where the applicant has a conviction for offences related to the supply / production of illegal / controlled drugs, including possession with intent to supply, until at least 7 years have passed since the completion of any sentence and / or licence period, and only then, after full consideration of the nature of the offence and the quantity / type of drugs involved.

If there is evidence of persistent drugs use, misuse or dependency, a specialist medical examination (in accordance with DVLA Group 2 medical standards) and a satisfactory medical report may be required before the licence is granted. If the applicant was an addict then he/she will be required to show evidence of 3 years free from drug taking after detoxification treatment.

If a caution or conviction of possession of drugs (for personal use) a licence will be refused by **Licensing Manager** for a 1 year alongside a drug test prescribed by the Licensing Authority (but paid for by the applicant) before the grant of the licence. If applicant declines to undertake a drug test, the application will be refused for a 3 year period by the **Licensing Manager**.

In regard to existing Hackney or Private Hire drivers, their Council issued licence will normally be revoked or suspended by the **Licensing Manager** and the above standard would apply.

13. The Conduct of Drivers or Applicants

Any Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver acting in a disorderly, abusive, violent manner, including towards any member of the public, other drivers, Police Officers or any Council official (Newport City Council or otherwise) will be referred to the **Licensing Panel** for it to consider the matter of his/her conduct.

To determine if a driver is "Fit and proper" the Council will **not** base its decision solely on conviction or caution, but also a driver's or applicant's conduct or any inappropriate behaviour. The **Licensing Panel** will take into account "soft" intelligence provided by the Police and other partners including the Licensing Authority. The evidential threshold for licensing committees is based on the "balance of probability" and not the "beyond reasonable doubt" (the criminal standard of proof). In short, if the **Licensing Panel** is 51% certain an applicant is not fit and proper person, it will refuse/ revoke the licence.

14. Repeat offending

There are occasions where licensed drivers may have a range of low level offences, warnings, cautions that may call into question whether they meet the acceptable standard with regard to passenger safety. In these particular cases, the Council **Licensing Panel** will consider all the facts in deciding whether that person is 'fit and proper' to retain a licence.

The Licensing Manager may if feel it appropriate to refer any applicant or driver to the Licensing Panel for its consideration in interest of public safety if for any reason the Manager feels he/she cannot determine such an application.

15. Table of delegation

Delegation Caution or Conviction	Licensing Panel	Licensing Manager
Minor Traffic Offences		X
Major Traffic Offences (not resulting in disqualification)	X	
Major Traffic Offence (resulting in disqualification)		X
Failure to report motoring disqualification		X
Drink driving or driving under influence of Drugs		X
Offences under TPCA 1947& LG(MP)Act 1976	X	
Equality Act offences	X	
Serious Offences involving violence		X
Obstruction & Criminal Damage	X	
Sexual & Indecency Offences		X
An Offence that may be categorised as domestic Violence.	X	
Dishonesty		X
Drugs		X
Conduct of Drivers or Applicants.	X	
Repeat Offending	X	
Matters that falls outside the above policies but are required to be determined in the interests of public safety or the Licensing Manager may if feel it appropriate to refer any applicant or driver to the Licensing Panel for its consideration in interest of public safety if for any reason the Manager feels he/she cannot determine such an application.	X	

Appendix B

Private Hire Drivers' Conditions

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 – PART II PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – CONDITIONS OF LICENCE

1. A driver shall at all times maintain 'a high standard of appearance and behaviour', afford assistance with passengers 'luggage' and take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of passengers. (drivers should obtain a medical exception from Licensing authority if they unable to conduct the above duties to medical reasons)
2. A driver shall not operate a radio / music / or electronic device in the vehicle so as to interfere with the comfort of passengers, nor without the express consent of the hirer shall he/she eat or drink in the vehicle.
3. A driver shall not convey a greater number of persons than specified in the Licence of the vehicle he/she is using, provided that for this purpose children under the age of ten may be conveyed in the rear passenger compartment. No child under the age of ten, or more than one person over that age may be conveyed in the front of the vehicle. The driver shall not allow any person other than the Hirer to ride in the vehicle (unless school contract escort) when it is on hire, without the Hirer's consent.
4. Property accidentally left in a Private Hire vehicle must be reported to the operator and the Police within a 24 hour period.
5. The driver shall upon request provide the hirer with a written receipt for the fare paid.
6. The driver shall convey no animal except when it is in the custody of the hirer and in this case the animal must be conveyed in the rear of the vehicle.
7. The driver shall make all attempts to arrive punctually at the time and place specified by the hirer.
8. A driver shall not demand of the hirer a sum in excess of that agreed between the hirer and the Operator. If the vehicle is fitted with a taximeter which is used to determine the fare, then the driver shall give the hirer the opportunity to examine the fare shown on the taximeter at the termination of the journey.
9. The driver shall notify the Council of all changes in his personal circumstances or relating to this licence, such as arrests, any offence for which reported, issue of fixed penalty notices, convictions, police cautions, and changes of address within fourteen days.
10. The driver should have no sexual contact or be sexually explicit either physically or verbally towards passengers they are transporting. The driver shall at all times ensure that the hirer/passenger is cared for and must not knowingly put them in any position that could lead them into any physical or moral danger. Any suspicious behaviour or circumstances must be reported to a relevant authority, e.g. Police, Children's Services or Licensing Officers.
11. Private Hire Drivers should take no part in the booking procedure between the customer and the Private Hire Operator. This includes supplying a customer with a communication device, i.e. mobile phone, computer device so they can make a booking with the Operator.
12. The Private Hire Driver shall only work for the Operator they have listed on their application form. If they change Operator, they should inform the Licensing Authority within 5 working days.

Legislation

The holder of a Private Hire Driver's Licence shall comply with the provisions relating to Private Hire vehicles contained in the following legislation:

- Town Police Clauses Act 1847
- Part II Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- Road Traffic Act 1988 Part 11(a) Construction and Use of Vehicles and Equipment
- Equality Act 2010
- Health Act 2006

CODE OF GOOD CONDUCT FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

This Code should be read in conjunction with the other statutory and Policy requirements set out in this document, it should be noted these are **not conditions**.

1. Responsibility to the Trade:

Licence holders shall endeavour to promote the image of the hackney carriage and private hire trades by:

- Complying with this Code of Good Conduct;
- Complying with all the Conditions of their Licence, Byelaws and the Authority's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy;
- Behaving in a civil, orderly and responsible manner at all times.

2. Responsibility to Clients:

Licence holders shall:

- Maintain their vehicles in a safe and satisfactory condition at all times. Carry out frequent checks of vehicles to ensure compliance with Motor Vehicles Construction and Use Regulations to ensure that the vehicle is a roadworthy condition prior to carrying passengers. Where faults of any description are identified which undermine the roadworthy condition of the vehicle, the driver should not drive the vehicle until such time as the fault has been rectified.
- keep their vehicle clean and suitable for hire to the public at all times;
- Attend punctually when undertaking pre-booked fares;
- Assist, passengers into and out of vehicle where necessary
- Provide passengers reasonable assistance with luggage.
- The driver should have no sexual contact or be sexually explicit, either physically or verbally towards passengers they are transporting. The driver shall at all times ensure that the hirer/passenger is cared for and must not knowingly put them any position that could lead to any physical or moral danger. Any suspicious behaviour or circumstances must be reported to a relevant authority, e.g. Police, Children's Services or licensing officers.
- To be professional and understanding to other road users
- To be polite and courteous to passengers
- Not use a hand held mobile phone or similar devices whilst driving
- Be smart and clean in appearance
- Have awareness of personal hygiene
- Transport passengers by the shortest available route

3. **Responsibility to Residents:**

To avoid nuisance to residents when picking up or waiting for a fare a driver shall:

- not sound the vehicle's horn (between 11:30 pm and 07:00am unless danger is presented by another road user) or from a stationary vehicle);
- keep the volume of music media player or VHF radio to a minimum
- switch-off the vehicle's engine if required to wait;
- Take whatever additional action is necessary to avoid causing disturbance to residents in the neighbourhood.
- Pick up and drop off safely and without risk to pedestrians and other road users.

4. **Responsibilities at Ranks and Offices**

Licence holders shall:

- Rank in an orderly manner and proceed along the rank promptly
- Remain in attendance of the vehicle
- Not allow their music media players or radios to cause disturbance to residents of the neighbourhood.
- Private Hire Vehicles are not permitted to park in or block a Hackney Carriage rank.

5. **General**

Drivers shall:

- Attend to their personal hygiene and dress so as to present a professional image to the public.
- be polite, helpful and fair to passengers
- drive with care and due consideration for other road users and pedestrians
- obey all traffic regulation orders and directions at all time
- not eat in the vehicle in the presence of customers; and
- Respect authorised Officers during the execution of normal course of their normal duties.

6. **Conduct when working with Vulnerable Passengers**

A vulnerable passenger is a passenger whose age or disability means that they are more susceptible to harm than a typical passenger. This may be a child, an elderly person or somebody with learning difficulties. Additionally a person should be considered as vulnerable if their condition is such as to render them more susceptible to harm than may otherwise be the case (E.g. physical or mental illness, as a result of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol).

This code of conduct aims to promote good safeguarding practice for drivers and staff working with vulnerable passengers in the taxi or private hire trade. The following safeguarding principles should be embedded into driver working practice:

- Drivers must carry photo ID at all times, and wear it in accordance with the conditions of licence.
- A vulnerable passenger should not be transported in the front passenger seat of the vehicle, unless directed to do so by a Licensing Officer/ Police or Operator.
- The driver / operator must confirm that appropriate provision has been made for the vulnerable person prior to accepting the booking or commencing the journey. This does not necessarily mean that the driver / operator is responsible for the provision of appropriate measures, however if appropriate measures are not in place then the driver / operator must not undertake the journey.

- If a vulnerable passenger is refused service a responsible person should be informed so that alternative arrangements can be made. For example, this situation may arise if the customer has an assistance dog and the driver has a medical exemption granted by the council.
- Drivers should always ask if a vulnerable passenger needs help, and should not make assumptions.
- Drivers must remain professional at all times
- Should not touch passengers inappropriately
- Should not use inappropriate or offensive language (swearing or sexualised discriminatory comments)
- Cause any passenger to feel intimidated or threatened.
- Attempt to use any passenger details recorded by the operator for any reason other than associated with that Private Hire Contract.
- Drivers should not behave in an over familiar manner with any passenger and under no circumstance provide any gift or gratuity.
- Drivers should not deviate from the journey allocated to them by their Operator.

These standards are equally applicable when working with vulnerable and non-vulnerable passengers.

- A log should be kept by drivers where there has been an incident occurring / actions taken or refusals of service involving a vulnerable person.
- When a service has been provided to a vulnerable passenger, drivers and operators must remain alert to issues around the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. If a driver/operator is concerned about the safety, welfare or behaviour of a vulnerable person, they should report this to the police by telephoning 101 (or in appropriate cases by calling 999).
- If drivers/operators are concerned about someone else's conduct, they should report the concerns to the Council's Licensing Service or Local Police.

VEHICLE POLICIES

1. Limitation of “Taxi” Numbers

No powers exist for Licensing Authorities to limit the numbers of Private Hire vehicles which they licence. The present legal provisions on restricting the numbers of Hackney Carriage Vehicles are set out in Section 16 of the Transport Act 1985. This provides that the grant of a Hackney Carriage licence may be refused, for the purpose of limiting the number of licensed Hackney Carriages “if, but only if, the Local Authority is satisfied that there is no significant demand for the services of Hackney Carriages (within the area to which the licence would apply) which is unmet”.

Many local Licensing Authorities, including Newport, do not impose any quantitative restrictions for Hackney Carriages. Where quantitative restrictions are imposed, vehicle licence plates can command a premium. This might suggest that there are people who want to enter the market and provide a Service to the public but are being prevented from doing so by the limitation of numbers. It may be difficult to justify a quantitative control in such circumstances.

The Council has not at this time decided to set a limit on the number of Hackney Carriages which it licenses: no evidence has been provided of any difficulty arising from this stance.

2. Accessibility Policy

The Council is committed to social inclusion and to ensure that, a wide variety of opportunities are available to disabled residents for them to be able to enjoy a high quality of life. It fully supports the view of the Disability Rights Commission that:

“Making successful journeys is critical to the social inclusion of disabled people. Without the ability to travel, disabled people are denied access to life opportunities. Their access to education, shopping, employment healthcare as well as social and family life is significantly improved when journeys become accessible.”

For this reason, the Council considers it important for disabled residents to have access to all forms of public transportation. In addition to the general conditions, accessibility for disabled people including, but not limited to, people who need to travel in a wheelchair, is an important consideration. Different accessibility considerations should apply to Hackney Carriage as opposed to Private Hire vehicles. This is because Hackney Carriages can be hired immediately in the street or at a Hackney Carriage stand by the customer dealing directly with a driver, whereas Private Hire vehicles can only be used by prior booking, through an Operator. On the basis that those with disabilities must have equal access to transport services, it is considered to be particularly important for a disabled person to be able to hire a Hackney Carriage on the spot with the minimum of delay or inconvenience and having accessible Hackney Carriages available helps make that possible.

Consequently, as from April 2007, the Council decided that it would only license as Hackney Carriages, vehicles that are Purpose Built “London style” fully wheelchair accessible vehicles. The Hackney Carriage must be safely accessible to a disabled person in their wheelchair and must be able to carry the person in safety and in reasonable comfort whilst remaining in their wheelchair. The wheelchair can enter either from the side of the vehicle or the rear. The vehicle must comply with British and European vehicle regulations, be type approved to the standard of M1 whole-vehicle, M1 (Low Volume) category and be unaltered since the type-approval.

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 superseded by the Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on Taxi drivers to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against or treated less favourably. Section 166 of Equality Act 2010 places duties on drivers of ‘designated’ wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles. These duties are:

1. To carry the passenger while in the wheelchair;
2. Not to make any additional charge for doing so;
3. If the passenger chooses to sit in a passenger seat to carry the wheelchair;
4. To take such steps as necessary to ensure that the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort; and
5. To give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonable required.

Section 165 of the Equality Act 2010 allows Taxi Drivers to apply to the Licensing Authority for an exemption from such duties in relation to their assisting disabled passengers. Drivers seeking an exemption will require a letter from their Regional Medical Practitioner stating the reason why an exemption should be granted.

Section 166 allows the Licensing Authority to exempt drivers from these duties to assist passengers in wheelchairs if they are satisfied that it is appropriate to do so on medical grounds or because the driver's physical condition makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for him or her to comply with these duties. An exempted driver will have to display an 'Exemption Notice' issued by the DfT in the vehicle.

Assistance Dogs

Licensed taxi drivers in England and Wales are under a duty under Equality Act 2010 to carry guide, hearing and other prescribed assistance dogs in their taxis without additional charge. Drivers who have a medical condition that is aggravated by exposure to dogs may apply to Newport City Council for an exemption from the duty on medical grounds. Any other driver who fails to comply with this duty could be prosecuted through a Magistrates' Court and is liable to a fine of up to £1,000 and could be deemed not to be a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney or Private Hire Driver's licence. Similar duties exist for PHV operators and their drivers.

3. Vehicle age

The DfT Guidance reminds Licensing Authorities that it is perfectly possible for an older vehicle to be in good condition and that the setting of an age limit, beyond which they will not licence vehicles, may be arbitrary and disproportionate. It is, nevertheless, accepted that a greater frequency of testing may be appropriate for older vehicles, for example, twice-yearly tests for vehicles that are more than five years old.

The Council recognises the advice given by the DfT and at this stage does not intend to place any rigid age restrictions on licensed vehicles. However, once a vehicle is 15 years old it will be required to be inspected by the Licensing Authority alongside the vehicle test, to determine if the vehicle is fit to be licensed or re-licensed.

4. Environmental Policy

The DfT Guidance asks Licensing Authorities to consider how far their vehicle Licensing Policies can and should support any local environmental policies that they may have adopted, bearing in mind the need to ensure that benefits outweigh costs.

The Council aims to ensure that Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles assist in the suitable improvement of air quality as such; the Council has adopted the following emission standards for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire vehicles.

- **New Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicles licences** will only be granted on vehicles that meet Euro 5 Standard.
- **Transfer of Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicles licences** will only be granted on vehicles that meet Euro 5 standard.
- **Replacement of Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle.** An existing vehicle licence holder (a proprietor that has held a current licence before introduction of the policy and has continued to renew this licence) may change the vehicle on that licence if the vehicle meets minimum Euro 4 standards. Vehicle licences granted after the introduction of the policy will only be granted to replace vehicles that meet Euro 5 standard.

Euro Standard	Date the standard was introduced
Euro 2	January 1996
Euro 3	1 st January 2000 until 31 st December 2004
Euro 4	1 st January 2005 until 31 st August 2009
Euro 5	1 st September 2009 until 31 st August 2014
Euro 6	1 st September 2014

It is also important to note that some vehicle manufacturers introduced the Euro Ratings to their vehicles before the due dates above (I.e. it is possible that a vehicle could be rated as a Euro 5 before the 01/09/2009 depending on the make/model. Details of Euro ratings can be found on vehicle V5 or V5C log book)

The authority will also look at providing in the future further incentives for Vehicles that are either electric or hybrid.

5. Vehicle testing

The DfT Guidance recognises that an annual MOT test for licensed vehicles of whatever age is appropriate. More frequent tests are not recommended, except for older vehicles (see section 3 above). The Council recognises the DfT guidance that a MOT test is appropriate, but considers it is important that vehicles are not only checked for road worthiness, but also that the vehicle meets the taxi licence conditions and that it is in excellent condition to carry passengers, as such before a vehicle licence is granted, the vehicle must be tested at a Council designated test / testing centres and in accordance with the Council testing procedures.

The following testing requirements are therefore proposed:

1. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles less than 5 years old (from date of first registration) will be tested annually and upon test pass will be granted a vehicle licence effective for 12 months/1 year.*
2. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles over 5 years old (from date of first registration will be granted a 12 month/yearly licence (although the vehicle will be issued a licence for 12 months it will be required to pass the Council vehicle test before 6 month from the date of issue of the 12month/yearly licence has elapsed.) Proprietors who fail to present the vehicle for testing before 6 month has elapsed will have their vehicle licence suspended immediately by the Licensing Authority and such suspension shall remain until the vehicle successfully passes the Council test*.
(Vehicles may be tested 31 days prior to the 6 month interval date)

**(In cases when the Proprietor has a poor history of vehicle maintenance the Licensing Manager may determine that the vehicle(s) licenced by that proprietor is tested on a quarterly basis. Before implementing this condition, a written warning and mediation meeting will take place between the Proprietor and the Licensing Manager/ Senior Licensing Officer.)*

3. Vehicle testing arrangements are currently through a nominated local testing station at which compliance with the requirements is assessed and confirmed by the issue of a certificate. Any authorised Officer of the Council or any Constable has the power at all reasonable times to inspect and test for the purpose of ascertaining its fitness, any Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle licensed by the Council. If the Officer feels the vehicle is unfit for use as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle, or the vehicle is not in compliance with Taxi Legislation or the Council's Licensing Policy and Conditions, the vehicle's licence may be suspended, revoked or not renewed. The Licensing Officer may refer revocations and renewals to the Licensing Panel to determine if the vehicle is fit for purpose. It should be noted that proprietors who purposely cover up brakes/moving parts etc. with under-seal, similar product or any other method to prevent parts of the vehicle being checked, will not pass the Council vehicle test.

6. Signage/Plates/Advertising Policy

Some members of the public do not distinguish between Private Hire vehicles with Hackney Carriages, and do not realise that Private Hire vehicles are not available for immediate hire or able to be hailed in the street. Therefore, it is important that the public are able to easily distinguish each type of vehicle. Creating distinctive livery for Hackney Carriages helps to resolve this difficulty. Roof-mounted signs on Private Hire vehicles are not seen as best practice even if they indicate 'pre-booked only'. This because as any roof-mounted sign is liable to create confusion with a Hackney Carriage which also has a roof mounted sign. Newport City Council licensed vehicles, both Hackney Carriages and Private Hire are required to display a 'Council' issued identity plate to the rear of the vehicle and adhesive signage on the front offside and front nearside doors of the vehicles. Currently, the adhesive door signs are circular and predominantly green in colour for Hackney Carriages and triangular and predominantly Yellow for Private Hire Vehicle. It is proposed to continue using these colours in order to distinguish between the two different types of vehicles.

From the 1 June 2001, Hackney Carriages were required to be Black or a colour approved by the Council. Private Hire vehicles can be any colour unless the vehicle is of the same design and appearance of "Purpose Built" vehicles which are licensed for the Hackney Carriages trade in Newport. Vehicles which are similar in appearance and colour to "Purpose Built or approved Hackney Carriage vehicles" shall not be licensed as Private Hire vehicles in order to prevent any confusion between a Private Hire Vehicle and a Hackney Carriage Vehicle. A Hackney Carriages licensed by the Council must carry an illuminated roof-mounted sign. The roof sign must state Taxi and must be illuminated when plying for hire.

Hackney Carriages Vehicles must have affixed to both offside and nearside front doors Council approved adhesive signs provided solely by the Council and affixed at the approved testing station. Private Hire Vehicles must have affixed to both offside and nearside front doors Council-approved adhesive signs provided solely by the Council and affixed at the approved testing station. The design of the signs (livery) can be found in Appendix E. Limited advertising is permitted on Private Hire Vehicles. Details of any signs or advertising shall be submitted, in the first instance, to the Council's Licensing Manager for due consideration as to content.

7. Hackney Carriage Fares Policy

Licensing Authorities have the power to set maximum Hackney Carriage fares for journeys within their area and the majority, including Newport City Council, do so. There is no power to set Private Hire fees. Fare scales should be designed with a view to practicality. The DfT sees it as good practice to review the fare scales at regular intervals, including any graduation of the fare scale by time of day or day of the week. The DfT also suggests that in reviewing fares, Authorities should pay particular regard to the needs of the travelling public, with reference both to what it is reasonable to expect people to pay but also to the need to give taxi drivers sufficient incentive to provide a service when it is needed. There may well be a case for allowing higher fares to be changed at times of higher demand, for example later at night and early morning.

The Council will set Hackney Carriages fares, at maximum fare that Drivers or Operators of Hackney Carriage Vehicles can charge. Drivers or Operators of Hackney Carriage Vehicles who wish to charge less than the Council Tariff may do so. The Fare Tariff will be subject of on-going review to ensure that it meets with both the needs of the travelling public and of the Hackney Carriage Trade in providing that service.

Although the Council is not permitted to set fares for Private Hire Vehicles, Private Hire vehicles wishing to have “taxi” meters in the vehicle will be required to run under the tariff that has been set by the Private Hire Operator. The vehicle will either be required to display the Operator’s Tariff on a tariff card in the vehicle or the Operator should give an estimated fixed fair to the customer at the time of the booking that should coincide with the meter.

8. Security/CCTV Policy

The DfT Guidance recommends Licensing Authorities look sympathetically on or actively encourage the installation of security measures such as a screen between driver and passengers or CCTV systems as a means of providing some protection for vehicle drivers.

It is not required by this Policy and Conditions that such measures should be implemented, as it is considered that such decisions are best left to the judgement of operators and drivers themselves. The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle trade are, however, encouraged to build good links with Gwent Police, and to participate in the ‘One Newport’ Partnership. However, should proprietors wish to install CCTV in their Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle, they must write to the Licensing Authority and inform us of the installation. The Licensing Authority will provide practice guidance for the trade.

Hackney Carriages drivers who wish to use the front passenger seat for a paying passenger or for gain must have CCTV present in the vehicle and it must be approved by the Council following its best practice guidance. This will allow the provisions of the front seat to be used by family and friends when the vehicle is “not working”.

9. Grant and Renewal of Vehicle Licences Policy

The DfT Guidance makes no recommendation as to the duration of Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle licences and legislation limits the maximum period of such licences to twelve months. The Council will grant both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences for a 12 month period. The Authority has power to impose conditions on both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licences. These can be found in Appendix C for Hackney Carriage and Appendix D for Private Hire Vehicles.

10. Prestige / Special” Vehicles/Stretched Limousines Policy/Wheelchair Private Hire Vehicles

Local Licensing Authorities may be asked to license stretched limousines as Private Hire Vehicles. It is suggested by DfT guidance that Local Authorities should approach such requests on the basis that these vehicles, The Council’s “special vehicle” Policy in respect of licence applications for such vehicles is set out in Appendix D alongside Prestige/Special and wheelchair Private Hire Vehicles. Where a vehicle has been imported from another country, VOSA approved certification will be required. Historically, this has been in a form of Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) inspection regime before becoming registered in the United Kingdom. This is now the Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) Scheme. The IVA test verifies that the converted vehicle is built to certain safety and environmental standards. The Council will require imported vehicles to meet the IVA standard and require evidence of this in the form of the V5C (Registration Certificate) of the vehicle, which may refer to IVA under the "Special Note" Section; or the proprietor must obtain written confirmation from: VOSA, Ellipse, Padley Road, Swansea, SA1 8AN, that the vehicle is IVA compliant.

Proprietors will require details of the vehicle's make and model, registration number and VIN number. Consideration may be given to the age of such vehicles, these usually being five years old when imported into the United Kingdom.

Due to the individual nature of a "special vehicle" including wheelchair- carrying vehicles, it will inevitably give rise to issues that would not apply to conventional Private Hire vehicles and therefore it will be necessary to consider whether special conditions should be included on any licence including being exempt from the "environmental policy".

11. Contract Vehicles

Until January 2008, there were no requirements for a vehicle to be licensed when used for a contract with an organisation or firm for a period of at least seven days, for carrying passengers for hire or reward under a contract for the hire of the vehicle. However, this exemption only applied to the vehicle and driver specified by the contract and then only during the period of the contract. Any vehicle being used for a contract with one firm could not be used for any other contract or purpose during the period of that contract. Vehicles carrying out contract work after that date have been required to be licensed by the Council in order to continue to undertake that work: this includes school transport.

Funeral Vehicles / Wedding Vehicles

There is no requirement for a vehicle to be licensed when it is used solely in connection with a funeral, or is wholly or mainly used by a person carrying on the business of a Funeral Director. A vehicle does not need to be licensed while it is being used solely for the wedding service.

12. Hackney Carriage Stands

The purpose of Hackney Carriage stands (also known as 'Taxi Ranks') is to provide the public with a set location where they can hire a licensed Hackney Carriage. The stand is where a Hackney Carriage only may ply for hire in a stationary position. The Council shall work with the Hackney Carriage trade and other stakeholders to keep stands under constant review.

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS

13. Requirements and Obligations

Any person who operates a Private Hire service using Private Hire vehicles must apply to the Council for a Private Hire Operator's licence. An Operator's licence permits the operator to make provision for the invitation or acceptance of bookings for a vehicle. A Private Hire operator must ensure that every Private Hire vehicle is driven by a person who holds a Private Hire driver's licence. An application for an Operator's Licence must be made on the prescribed form, together with the appropriate fee.

14. Criminal Record Check Policy

Private Hire operators are not exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, so standard or enhanced disclosures can be required. A basic disclosure from the Disclosure Scotland or a standard disclosure from the CRB or a certificate of good conduct from the relevant embassy for overseas applicants will be required for new operators. A Criminal Record Check will be required every 5 years. Operators that hold either a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver's licence with the Authority will not be required to undertake a CRB check.

15. Conditions

The Authority has the power to impose such conditions on an Operator's licence, as it considers reasonably necessary as stipulated in Appendix F.

16. Record Keeping Policy

Sections 56(2) and (3) of the 1976 Act place a duty on a Private Hire Operator to maintain records. However, it is for the Council to decide what records are required in relation to journeys that are booked. Operators are required to keep records in respect of all bookings, vehicles and drivers, for a period of one year as defined in the Private Hire Operator's Conditions of Licence appendix D.

17. Insurance Policy

Before an application for a Private Hire Operator's Licence is granted, the applicant must take out the appropriate public liability insurance for the premises from which he/she is to be licensed. The conditions proposed for a Private Hire Operator's licence, will require that the Operator produces an appropriate certificate of motor insurance which covers every Private Hire vehicle they operate.

18. Licence Duration Policy

The DfT considers that annual licence renewal is not necessary or appropriate for Private Hire Operators, whose involvement with the public is less direct than that of a driver. They recommend, as good practice, that a licence period of five years would be reasonable. Changes in legislation from the 1 October 2015 under the De-Regulation Act 2015 required all authorities to issue Private Hire Operators for a period of five years. Newport City Council will issue a 5 year licence to an individual(s) or a company, although the Operator's licence will not be transferrable.

19. Address from Which an Operator May Operate

Upon grant of an Operator's Licence, the Council will specify the address from which the operator may operate. This will be the premises where the records are to be kept and at which they may be inspected by authorised Officers and Police Constables.

It is the responsibility of the Operator to ensure that appropriate planning consent exists for the use of the address which is to be used for operating the business. It should be noted that the grant of a Private Hire Operator's Licence will not imply that planning consent has been given.

20. Bases outside the Newport City Council Area & "Satellite" bases

The Authority will not normally grant an Operator's Licence to an Operator with an operating base that is located outside the district of Newport. This is to ensure that proper regulation and enforcement measures can be taken and is in no way intended to be a restraint on trade. If the Authority were to ever consider issuing a licence outside the City, a comprehensive business plan would have to be developed to ensure proper regulation and enforcement measures were not undermined.

Where Operators use a second 'satellite' base as an Operator's office (whether it is a business or residential address) within Newport, they shall inform the Licensing Authority in writing so that the addresses may be stated on the Licence. The Licensing Authority reserves the right to charge for every additional office.

21. Sub-Contracting Private Hire Bookings

Operators are allowed to sub-contract bookings to other operators, both within the licensed area and outside of the Council's area. Operator licence conditions relating to Sub-Contracting can be found in Appendix D.

22. Operator's Responsibilities

The Council expects Private Hire Operators to play an integral role in ensuring not only public safety, but also the safety of the driver they despatch (despite the majority of drivers being "self-employed"). As such, all Operators are required to keep an incident book in which records both driver and passenger incidents.

As part of the Operator's 5 year licence, the licence conditions will be audited periodically in connection with the statutory requirements and any condition which forms part of the Operator's Licence. Following the audit, the Operator shall be graded as either: Compliant, Bronze, Silver or Gold. The Operator will be given a certificate highlighting the award given by the Licensing Authority. This certificate will not be mandatory to display, although Operators who are awarded with Gold or Silver may wish to highlight the award on their websites, promotional material or when tendering for contracts. The aim of the awards scheme is to promote the "taxi" industry and ensure that there is a high quality of service which is recognised by affixing of a grade/award on their vehicles and at the Operator's Base. In addition, it allows the residents of the City and those visiting to make a choice of whom they wish to use by virtue of the grade award to a particular company.

Appendix C

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Conditions

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions

A Hackney Carriage proprietor is an owner or part owner of a vehicle, or where a vehicle is subject to leasing contract, hiring agreement or hire purchase, a proprietor is the person in possession of the vehicle under the agreement. In all such cases the proprietor requires a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence from Newport City Council, before they are legally entitled to use the vehicle to ply for hire. Licences can be obtained by making a full application to the Council. Each applicant must submit an application in respect of every vehicle for which a licence is required.

Specification

1. The Proprietor shall ensure that the vehicle and all its fittings and equipment shall at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire be kept in an efficient, safe, tidy and clean condition and that all relevant statutory requirements (including in particular those contained in Motor Vehicles Construction and Use Regulations) shall be fully complied with.
 - a) The vehicle shall have no evident signs of previous significant accident damage. The paint work shall be of a professional finish over the whole of the vehicle's bodywork.
 - b) The bodywork shall have no significant signs of corrosion. Corrosion includes visible rust and signs of rust by virtue of the paintwork being blistered.
 - c) Bodywork damage cannot be patched up or fixed with 'Gaffer Tape' etc. (Although the quarter light windows can be affixed by Gaffer Tape in the interest of prevention of crime and wing mirrors can be taped if the mirror has been vandalised, but the mirror should be fixed before any future council tests.)
 - d) All parts of the passenger compartment shall be kept clean and free of any damage, which may otherwise affect its suitability for the carriage of passengers.
 - e) Where seat covers are used they shall be properly affixed to the seat so as not to become loose during use. They shall be kept clean and devoid of damage of any kind.
 - f) A working heating and ventilation system shall be provided within the Hackney Carriage.
 - g) A window on either side of the passenger compartment shall be capable of being opened easily by passengers and/or by the driver.
2. No material alteration or change to the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without the prior approval of the Licensing Manager.

Type of Vehicle

3. The vehicle must be a purpose built fully wheelchair accessible vehicle. The vehicle must be safely accessible to a disabled person in their wheelchair and must be able to carry the person in safety and in reasonable comfort while remaining in their wheelchair. The vehicle must comply with British and European Vehicle Regulations, be type approved to the standard of M1 whole-vehicle, M1 (Low volume) category and be unaltered since the type-approval was obtained. Wheelchairs can either access the vehicle from the side or from the rear of the vehicle. The wheelchair must be secured within the vehicle at all times and in accordance with the Vehicles Manufacture Guidelines.

PLATE, SIGNS, ADVERTISING, AND LIVERY

- 4 (a) Vehicles shall at all times display the external plate and internal disc which are supplied with this licence by the Council. The plate must be securely attached to the vehicle with the use of a plate bracket provided by the Council or screwed to the rear of the vehicle (magnetic or self-adhesive securing of the plate is not permitted). The only exception for not displaying the plate on the bracket is when the bracket breaches the Road Traffic Act, or if the vehicle precludes the use of the bracket; in this case proprietors must contact the Licensing Team in order to obtain an exemption from having to display a plate bracket.
And

(b) Display the Council licence disc at the top left hand corner of the inside front windscreen ensuring that the licence details thereon are visible from both inside and outside the vehicle and in such a way as not to obscure visibility in anyway. The inside disc should display the plate number and expiry date.
5. The vehicle must display authorised Council Door Stickers on the driver's and front passenger's door. No signs, notices, symbols or emblems should be displayed in or on the vehicle without the prior approval of the Licensing Manager. However a sign can be attached to the rear passenger doors: this sign must be no larger than 80cm x 50 cm and should only be used to highlight the Company/Operator for whom the vehicle is working.
6. The Vehicle must be in BLACK in colour or a colour approved by the Council.

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

7. The Proprietor shall, within fourteen days, notify the Council, in writing, of any arrest, pending prosecution, report for summons, any road traffic offence, any conviction or any other offence in his/her regard during the period of this licence.
8. The Proprietor shall, within fourteen days, notify the Council in writing of all changes in circumstances affecting this licence, such as: change of address, phone number, taxi operator for whom he/she is working, owner of the vehicle, change of insurance company etc.
9. The Proprietor should inform the Licensing Authority within 4 working days and in writing of any accident or damage to the vehicle and present the vehicle for inspection upon request of a Licensing Officer.

RETURN OF PLATE

10. The Hackney Carriage Licence plate and disc, supplied with this licence, is the property of Newport City Council. The plate should be returned within 14 days after expiry; failure to do so will result in loss of the plate deposit and may result in other action being taken.

INSURANCE

11. The Proprietor shall ensure that a copy of the Insurance Policy or Cover Note is carried in the vehicle at all times. The proprietor shall not use the vehicle, nor permit it to be used as a Hackney Carriage vehicle when there is not in force for the vehicle an appropriate Policy of Insurance, or such security as complies with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and that the requisite vehicle road tax has been paid for the year. The Proprietor shall produce, when requested, the vehicle registration document and a valid MOT Certificate.

SEATING PLAN & LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT

12. Each passenger shall have direct access to a door without the need to remove or completely fold flat other seating. Where passengers do not have direct access to a door vehicles that have seats that “tilt” forward by a single operation will be permitted by the Council. A clear sign within the vehicle should clearly indicate the location of the handle that operates the tilt forward seat.
13. Hackney Carriages that wish to use the passenger seat for a paying passenger or for gain must have CCTV present in the vehicle and be approved by the Council; separate guidance will be available for proprietors.
14. The vehicle must be capable of carrying no fewer than four passengers and no more than eight.
15. The vehicle must have a boot or luggage compartment which provides sufficient space to carry a reasonable amount of luggage.
16. Each passenger seat shall be fitted with a seat belt. No seats may be side facing, other than a wheelchair that has been correctly secured in the vehicle, in accordance with vehicle manufacturer’s guidelines.
17. The vehicle should not carry children in pushchairs; the pushchair should be folded up and stored. If the vehicle does not have the correct child restraint, then the child should be placed on the rear seat only. Children under 3 years old may travel unrestrained, but instead held in an adult’s arms/lap. Children aged 3 years old or over must use an adult seat belt as in accordance with Road Traffic Act. (Further details can be found on)

http://www.dft.gov.uk/think/focusareas/children/childincar?page=Advice&whoareyou_id=

ALTERATION OF VEHICLE

18. No alteration to the manufacturer’s specification for the vehicle including a change of or additional fuel type shall be carried out except with the prior written approval of the Council.

TINTED WINDOWS

19. The front windscreen and front windows must have a visible light transmission (VLT) of not less than 75 per cent and all other windows must not be tinted to the extent that passengers cannot be seen from outside the vehicle.

VEHICLE TESTS

20. Hackney Carriages will be tested once every year until 5 years old. Hackney Carriage over 5 years’ old will be tested every 6 month following issue of a 12 month/yearly licence. Licence holders are permitted to book the vehicle in for testing up to 28 days prior to the 6 monthly test.
21. If a vehicle fails the Council’s vehicle test or a MOT the vehicle cannot be used as a Hackney Carriage until such time the vehicle is re-examined and passes the Council test or MOT.

VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

22. The vehicle must carry the following equipment:
- a. A spare wheel suitable for immediate use and which is properly maintained. If the spare wheel is of the temporary space saver type, it may only be used to complete the particular journey or hiring the vehicle is engaged on when the wheel change is necessary and vehicles that have certain technology may be exempt from this condition at the discretion of the Council (E.g. vehicle is fitted with run-flat tyres).
 - b. A jack and tools for changing the wheels.
 - c. A ramp, or ramps, for the loading of a wheelchair and passenger must be available at all times for use at the nearside rear passenger door. An adequate locking device shall be fitted to ensure that the ramp(s) do not slip, splay apart or tilt when in use. Provision shall be made for the ramps to be stored safely in the vehicle when not in use. The duties for proprietor / driver:
 - Are to transport the passenger while in the wheelchair;
 - not to make any additional charge for doing so;
 - if the passenger chooses to sit in a passenger seat, to carry the wheelchair;
 - to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort;
 - to give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonably required.

Unless the driver holds an Exemption certificate as defined under Equality Act 2010.

Any auxiliary equipment that is fitted to a vehicle shall not impede the driver in any way, or hinder his/her view, or impede, or cause hazard to passengers or other road users.

ADVERTISING

23. Advertisements are only permitted on the interior of purpose built Hackney Carriages on the underside of the tip-up seats and across the bulkhead above the dividing glass partition. The permitted sizes are as follows:
- bulkhead 60cm x 8 cm
 - tip up seat 33cm x 30.5cm.

No advertisement may be placed on the dividing glass partition other than notices approved by the Council, for example the tariff card.

AUDIO, VIDEO & RECORDING SYSTEMS

24. No audio, video or recording systems which were not installed when the vehicle was manufactured shall be installed or operated in the vehicle without complying with the Council CCTV guidance.

NO SMOKING IN VEHICLE

25. No smoking is permitted in the vehicle by either the driver or passengers. The vehicle should comply with the "smoke free" regulations as stated in the Health Act 2006. The vehicle must display 'no-smoking' signs in a prominent position. The sign should include the international red 'no smoking' symbol.

METERS AND FARES

26. The vehicle must be fitted with a taxi meter which must comply with the Measuring Instruments (Taximeters) Regulations 2006. The taxi meter shall:
 - a. show the fare recorded on the taxi meter in clearly legible figures, and the word 'FARE' shall be clearly displayed so as to apply to such figures;
 - b. The meter should be set in accordance with the Council's Table contrary of Hackney Carriage fares, unless the Proprietor wishes to have a lower tariff. In this case the Proprietor must display the Council Tariff alongside a Proprietor's Tariff Card. In such circumstances the Proprietor's Tariff Card must clearly state that the Proprietor does not charge the maximum Council taxi rates. A copy of the Proprietor's Card should be given to the Council for its own records.
27. The fare tariff must be fixed in such a position so that the fare to be charged is visible to all passengers within the vehicle at all times and the figures shall be illuminated for this purpose. In the case of Hackney Carriage vehicles that have safety shields, the fare tariff should be displayed in the rear compartment of the vehicle.
28. The Proprietor of the hackney carriage shall ensure that there is a receipt book available in the vehicle at all times and a receipt should be provided at the passenger's request.

LOST PROPERTY

29. The proprietor or driver of a Hackney Carriage shall take all reasonable steps to return any property that has been left in his vehicle to the rightful owner and in any case must take any found property to Newport Central Police Station within 24 hours.

Environmental Condition

30. **New Hackney Carriage licences** will only be granted on vehicles that meet Euro 5 Standard.

Transfer of Hackney Carriage licences will only be granted on vehicles that meet Euro 5 standard.

Replacement of Hackney Carriage licences. An existing vehicle licence holder (a proprietor that has held a current licence before introduction of the policy and continued to renew this licence) may change the vehicle on that licence if the vehicle meets minimum Euro 4 standards. Vehicle licences granted after the introduction of the policy will only be granted to replace vehicles that meet Euro 5 standard.

31. The holder of every Hackney Carriage licence shall comply with the provisions relating to Hackney Carriages contained in the following legislation:
 - Town Police Clauses Act 1847
 - Part II Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
 - Road Traffic Act 1988 Part 11 (a) Construction and Use of Vehicles and Equipment.
 - Equality Act 2010.
 - Health Act 2006

Appendix D

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS

A Private Hire vehicle proprietor is an Owner or part-Owner of a vehicle, or where a vehicle is subject to a hiring agreement or hire purchase, the person in possession of the vehicle under the agreement. A Private Hire vehicle proprietor requires a Private Hire vehicle licence from Newport City Council for each vehicle used for Private Hire. The vehicle can only operate under a Newport City Council Operator's Licence.

Licences can be obtained by making a full application to the Council. Applicants must submit an application for every vehicle for which a licence is required.

SPECIFICATION

1. The Proprietor shall ensure that the vehicle and all its fittings and equipment and at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire kept in an efficient, safe, tidy and clean condition and all relevant statutory requirements (including in particular those contained in Motor Vehicles Construction and Use Regulations) shall be fully complied with.
 - a) The vehicle shall have no evident signs of previous significant accident damage. The paint work shall be of a professional finish over the whole of the vehicle's bodywork.
 - b) The bodywork shall have no significant signs of corrosion. Corrosion includes visible rust and signs of rust by virtue of the paintwork being blistered etc.
 - c) Bodywork damage cannot be patched-up or fixed with 'Gaffer Tape' etc. (Although the quarter light windows can be affixed by Gaffer Tape in the interest of prevention of crime and wing mirrors can be taped if the mirror has been vandalised, but the mirror should be fixed before any future Council tests.)
 - d) All parts of the passenger compartment shall be kept clean and free of any damage, which may otherwise affect its suitability for the carriage of passengers.
 - e) Where seat covers are used they shall be properly affixed to the seat so as not to become loose during use. They shall be kept clean and devoid of damage of any kind.
 - f) An adequate heating and ventilation system shall be provided for the driver and the passengers alike.
 - g) A window on either side of the passenger compartment shall be capable of being opened easily by passengers when seated.
2. No material alteration or change to the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without prior approval of the Licensing Manager.
3. The vehicle must comply with British and European Vehicle Regulations, be type approved to the standard of M1 Whole-Vehicle , M1 (Low volume) and be unaltered since, it received type-approval.
4. Private Hire vehicle can be any colour unless the vehicle is a "Purposed Built" vehicle; these types of vehicles are not permitted to be black / dark blue / dark grey or any other colour that could be confused with 'black'.

PLATES, SIGNS, ADVERTISING AND LIVERY

5. The Private Hire Vehicle Licence plate must be displayed externally, adjacent to the rear bumper and securely attached to the vehicle with the use of a plate bracket provided by the Council. The only exception for not displaying the plate is when the bracket breaches the Road Traffic Act. In this case proprietors must contact the Licensing Team to seek exemption from having to display a bracket.
6. The licence disc must be displayed at the top left hand corner of the inside front windscreen in such a way as to obscure the driver's visibility ensuring that the licence details thereon are visible from both inside and outside the vehicle.
7. The vehicle must display authorised Council door stickers on the driver's and the front passenger doors. (The only exception is when Private Hire Vehicles are used in connection with a wedding or a funeral, they are then permitted to cover up the Council Door stickers with a magnetic cover and no other advertising is permitted on the vehicle including company logos).
8. No signs, notices, symbols or emblems shall be displayed in or on the vehicle without the approval of the Licensing Manager. However, a sign can be attached to the rear passengers' doors: this sign must be no larger than 80cm x 50cm and should only be used to highlight the operator for whom the vehicle is working.

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

9. The Proprietor shall, within fourteen days, notify the Council, in writing, of any conviction, arrest, or caution imposed on him/her during the period of this licence.
10. The Proprietor shall, within fourteen days, notify the Council, in writing, of all changes in circumstances affecting this licence, such as change of address or change of Private Hire Operator etc.
11. The Proprietor should inform the Licensing Authority within 4 working days and in writing of any accident or damage to the vehicle.

RETURN OF PLATE

12. The Private Hire Licence plate and disc supplied with the licence is the property of Newport City Council. The plate should be returned within 7 days after expiry. Failure to do so will result in loss of the plate deposit and could result in other action being taken.

INSURANCE

13. The Proprietor shall ensure that a copy of the Insurance Policy or Cover Note is carried in the vehicle at all times. The proprietor shall not use the vehicle, nor permit it to be used, as a Private Hire vehicle when there is not in force for the vehicle a Policy of Insurance, or such security as complies with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988, covering the use of the vehicle to carry passengers for hire or reward. The proprietor shall produce when requested the vehicle registration document, a valid MOT certificate and shall ensure that the vehicle's road tax has been paid for the year.

SEATING PLAN AND LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT

14. The vehicle must be capable of carrying no fewer than four passengers and no more than eight. Cars must have a back seat width (when measured in a continuous line from edge to edge) of at least 1220mm (48 inches).
15. Larger vehicles (MPV, minibus, or people mover types) must have sufficient doors of sufficient size to allow passengers to get in and out quickly and safely. Where exit from the rear seats in vehicles equipped with three rows of seats requires operation of a tip seat mechanism, passengers must be able to exit from either side of the vehicle and the tip seats at either end of the middle row must be capable of independent operation. Where a vehicle is equipped with pop-up, or auxiliary seats intended for occasional use only, those seats must not be included in the licensed capacity of the vehicle. Where the vehicle configuration requires a whole bench seat to slide and/or tip for access/egress to the rear seats, the rear seats should not be included in the seating capacity and should be removed to avoid pressure from passengers to carry numbers in excess of the licensed capacity.
16. The vehicle must have a boot or luggage compartment which provides sufficient space to carry a reasonable amount of luggage. For this reason certain models of **small "family hatchback"** vehicles will not be considered for a licence unless they are an estate model and able to carry a reasonable amount of luggage, for example prams, wheelchair and luggage.
17. Each passenger seat shall be fitted with a seat belt. No seats may be side facing, other than a wheelchair that has been correctly secured in the vehicle and in accordance with vehicle manufacturer's guidelines.
18. The vehicle should not carry children in pushchairs; the pushchair should be folded up and stored. If the vehicle does not have the correct child restraint then the child should be placed on the rear seat only. Children under 3 years old may travel unrestrained and instead should be held in an adult's arms/lap. Children aged 3 years old or over must use an adult seat belt as in accordance with Road Traffic Act. (Further details can be found on www.dft.gov.uk/think/focusareas/children/childincarc?page=Advice&whoareyou_id=

ALTERATION OF VEHICLE

19. No alteration to the manufacturer's specification for the vehicle including a change of or additional fuel type shall be carried out except with the prior written approval of the Council.

TINTED WINDOWS

20. The front windscreen and front windows must have a visible light transmission (VLT) of not less than 75%. Only vehicle manufacture tints are permitted on the rear vehicle windows.

VEHICLE TESTS

21. Private Hire Vehicles will be tested once every year until 5 years old. Private Hire Vehicles over 5 years' old but below 10 years will be tested at the 6 month anniversary of yearly licence.
22. If a vehicle fails a Council Vehicle Plating Test or a MOT the vehicle should not be used as a Private Hire Vehicle until such time the vehicle passes the Council test or MOT.

VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

23. The vehicle must carry the following equipment:
- a. a spare wheel suitable for immediate use and which is properly maintained. If the spare wheel is of the temporary space-saver type, it may only be used to complete the particular journey or hiring the vehicle is engaged on when the wheel change is necessary. Vehicles that have certain technology may be exempt from this condition at the discretion of the Council.
 - b. a jack and tools for changing the wheels.
 - c. any auxiliary equipment that is fitted to a vehicle shall not impede the driver in any way, or hinder his/her view, or impede, or cause hazard to passengers or other road users.

AUDIO, VIDEO OR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

24. No audio, video or recording systems which were not installed when the vehicle was manufactured shall be installed or operated in the vehicle without informing the council in writing.

NO SMOKING IN VEHICLES

25. No smoking is permitted in the vehicle by either the driver or passengers. The vehicle should comply with the "smoke free" regulations as stated in the Health Act 2006.

METERS AND FARES

26. The vehicle is not required to have a meter but if a meter is installed it must comply with The Measuring Instruments (Taximeters) Regulations 2006. The meter shall:
- a) show the fare recorded on the taxi meter in clearly legible figures, and the word 'FARE' shall be clearly displayed so as to apply to such figures;
 - b) the meter should be set in accordance with the Operator's Tariff.
27. The fare card must be fixed in such a position in order that the fare to be charged is clearly visible to all passengers within the vehicle at all times, and the figures shall be illuminated for this purpose.
28. The Proprietor of the Private Hire Vehicle must ensure that he/she has a receipt book available in the vehicle at all times and a receipt should be provided at the passenger's request.

LOST PROPERTY

29. The proprietor or driver of a Private Hire Vehicle shall take all reasonable steps to return any property that has been left in his vehicle to the rightful owner and in any case must take any found property to Newport Central Police Station within 48 hours.

Environment policy

30. **New Private Hire Vehicle licences** will only be granted on vehicles that meet Euro 5 Standard.

Transfer of Private Hire Vehicles licences will only be granted on vehicles that meet Euro 5 standard.

Replacement of Private Hire Vehicle. An existing vehicle licence holder (a proprietor that has held a current licence before introduction of the policy and continued to renew this licence) may change the vehicle on that licence if the vehicle meets minimum Euro 4 standards. Vehicle licences granted after the introduction of the policy will only be granted to replace vehicles that meet Euro 5 standard.

LEGISLATION

31. The holder of every Private Hire licence shall comply with the provisions relating to the licensing of Private Hire Vehicles contained in the following legislation:
- Town Police Clauses Act 1847,
 - Part II Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ,
 - Road Traffic Act 1988 Part 11 (a) Construction and Use of Vehicles and Equipment;
 - Equality Act 2010,
 - Health Act 2006

POLICY ON SPECIAL EVENT VEHICLE: INCLUDING LIMOUSINES, WHEELCHAIR & PRESTIGE TYPE VEHICLES

This element of the Policy only applies to Private Hire Vehicles.

1. For the purpose of this Policy, a 'special event vehicle' shall mean a vehicle that is used for a particular occasion or occasions of a restricted nature e.g. transport to parties and is not a conventional vehicle used for standard Private Hire work.
2. Examples of vehicles that may fall within the 'Special Event' category are stretch limousines, classic cars, vehicle that has fewer than four seats or have wheelchair provisions for example vehicle that have rear operated lifts etc. Proprietors of prestige type vehicles licensed as private hire vehicles or private hire vehicles used in special circumstances may seek the permission of the Authority to waive conditions of their licence relating to the display of licence plates, door stickers and driver badges.
3. This element of the Policy does not apply in relation to vehicles which are used exclusively in connection with weddings and funerals and as such are exempt from Private Hire Licensing.
4. The General Licence Conditions for Private Hire Vehicles will not normally allow for special event vehicles to be licensed for a number of reasons including the style and design of the vehicle and "classic" cars failing to meet admission standards.
5. Any special event vehicle that has not been type approved, which does not meet the requirements of the Construction and Use Regulations or which otherwise would not meet the standard Private Hire vehicle conditions may apply to be licensed by seeking a variation or exemption from some of the standard conditions which would otherwise apply.
6. Each vehicle will be considered and assessed by **Licensing Manager** on its merit taking account of:
 - the overall condition of the vehicle
 - the number of passengers for which it is required to be licensed and
 - The specific criteria from which an exemption is sought.
 - Type of wheelchair access (for example rear lift operating vehicles)
 - Type of Work or Contract the vehicle will be used for.
 - The Council's primary consideration will always be the safety and comfort of the travelling public.

LIMOUSINE CONDITIONS

The following set of conditions will be attached to all stretched limousines:

1. Limousines are permitted to be Left or Right Hand Drive.
2. The majority of stretched limousines are imported from the U.S.A and are left hand drive. The Department for Transport has recommended that Councils should not refuse to licence limousines simply because they have characteristics which contravene their existing Policy, i.e. left hand drive. Limousines with sideways facing seating will be permitted.

3. A main characteristic of stretched limousines is their sideways facing bench seats. In line with the Department for Transport's guidance outlined above, the Council will consider the suitability of limousines with sideways seating for Licensing. The vehicle must have a seat belt available for every travelling passenger.
4. Limousines will not be required to display any Council livery but will be required to display the Council's private hire plate. (The plate serves to distinguish Private Hire Vehicles from ordinary saloon cars and Hackney Carriage vehicles and to make them clearly identifiable to the public. However, the naturally distinctive appearance of stretched limousines means that they are very unlikely to be confused with a Hackney Carriage or a private-use vehicle).
5. Limousines with heavily tinted glass in the rear offside/nearside windows will be considered for Licensing. However, heavily tinted glass in the driver cockpit would remain prohibited in line with legal requirements. It is recognised that the privacy provided by tinted glass in the passenger compartment is a central characteristic of a limousine. However, glass in the driver cockpit must satisfy the standards within the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 as amended.
6. Limousines will be required to hold a valid Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) Certificate or an IVA certificate. (The SVA or IVA test comprises a visual examination of a vehicle and certifies its safety and roadworthiness).
7. The limousine must be fitted with tyres that meet with both the size and weight specification. (Given the increased weight of the vehicle, tyres of the correct weight and size rating must be used at all times).
8. Any seats in the driver's compartment shall not be used to carry passengers. (This is to ensure that passengers are not carried in the front of the vehicle in order to improve driver and passenger safety).
9. In any advertisement publicising any limousine service, the Operator must state that the vehicle is only licensed to carry up to a minimum of 8 passengers. This is order to inform customers of the maximum carrying capacity of the vehicle).
10. Alcoholic drinks provided in the vehicle shall be under the terms of an appropriate licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 which relates to the sale and supply of alcohol. In order to comply with alcohol licensing requirements and safeguard public safety bottles of alcohol shall be placed in a secure place and should be removed when any passenger is under 18 years old. Any glassware in the vehicle must be made of either shatterproof glass or plastic, (safeguard public safety).
11. The driver shall not play or permit the performance of any media that, given its age classification or content, is unsuitable for the age of the passengers in the vehicle. (This is in order to safeguard child passengers from viewing unsuitable material).
12. If the limousine parks to provide some form of regulated entertainment for its passengers, a licence must be in place in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.
13. Any vehicle that has been constructed or adapted to seat more than eight passengers cannot be licensed as a Private Hire vehicle.
14. Due to the individual nature of a Limousine vehicle it will inevitably give rise to issues that would not apply to conventional Private Hire Vehicles and, therefore, it will be necessary to consider whether special conditions should be included on any licence. The Licensing Manager will determine any such additional special conditions. If the proprietor is not satisfied with the proposed conditions, the matter will be heard and determined by the Licensing Panel.

“PRESTIGE” TYPE VEHICLES CONDITIONS

15. Prestige Vehicles that wish to be exempt from the requirements that they be plated and display side stickers will have to comply with all Private Hire Conditions other than Conditions relating to the plate and side stickers (Livery).
16. No cash work can be undertaken by the vehicle unless the vehicle is booked at least 1 hour before the commencement of the journey or the operator has a written contract with particular business (es) or person.
17. No meter is permitted in the vehicle (unless integrated).
18. Vehicles must be under 7 years old though older vehicles will be considered by the Licensing Manager, and this predominately will permit older vintage cars or unique cars to be granted a licence.
19. Vehicle must be of a standard of comfort and be equipped to a level equal to or above that of luxury model vehicles such as Mercedes Benz E or S Class, BMW 5 and 7 Series, Lexus GS or LS, Audi A6, A8, Range Rover, Jaguar XF, XJ, Tesla, Maserati Ghibli, Quattro Porte, VW Phantom, Volvo S/V90, etc. (Higher specification executive-type saloon and MPV cars from other manufacturers may also be considered for example Mercedes Vito).
20. An “executive” window plate must be displayed at all times in the front windscreen of the vehicle.
21. No advertising is permitted on or in the vehicle at any time.
22. The driver of the vehicle must be appropriately dressed for formal occasion wearing a formal suit (jacket, trousers or skirt) and formal shoes. No casual wear shall be permitted to be worn by the driver.
23. The individual nature of a special event vehicle will inevitably give rise to issues that would not apply to conventional Private Hire Vehicles and, therefore, it will be necessary to consider whether any special conditions should be included on a licence. The Licensing Manager will determine any such special conditions. If the proprietor is not satisfied with the proposed conditions, the matter will be heard and determined by the Licensing Panel.

It should be noted that Proprietors / Operators found to be breaching the above conditions will be stripped of “executive” status for period of 12 months by the Licensing Manager and the vehicle will be suspended until such time as the vehicle(s) complies with Private Hire Vehicle Conditions.

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR'S CONDITIONS

1. The holder of a Private Hire operator's licence shall comply with the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
2. **The Operator shall:**
 - a. Provide a prompt, efficient and reliable service to members of the public at all reasonable times.
 - b. Ensure that his/her Office Staff behave in a civil and orderly manner at all times
 - c. Ensure that when a vehicle has been hired it arrives punctually at the appointed place, unless delayed by unforeseen circumstances.
 - d. Ensure that premise provided for the purpose of hiring or waiting are kept clean, adequately lit, heated and ventilated.
 - e. Ensure that any 'Waiting Area' provided has adequate seating facilities and, if such are provided, that any telephone facilities are in good working order.
 - f. The Operator shall notify the Authority in writing of any change affecting this licence, including any change of address (including any address from which he/she operates or otherwise conducts his/her business), which takes place during the currency of the licence. Such notice shall be given, in writing, within 14 days of the change to the Licensing Section.
 - g. The Operator shall within 14 days of the occurrence of any arrest, report for summons for any offence, or any conviction, notify the Licensing Authority in writing the details of such occurrence. If the operator is a company or partnership, this requirement shall apply to any of its Directors or Partners.
 - h. The Operator shall only dispatch a licensed vehicle that fully complies with Licence vehicle conditions.
 - i. The Operator shall bring to the attention of all drivers their legal obligations regarding the use of seatbelts both by adults and children.
 - J. The Operator shall in so far as possible ensure that Private Hire Vehicles under their specific control meet general conditions of roadworthiness required of a licensed vehicle whereas the driver of the vehicle responsible shall at all times have this responsibility. Any Operator who knowingly operates a defective vehicle shall be liable for enforcement action.
 - K. The Operator shall ensure that a certificate of motor insurance pursuant to Section 143 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 exists for every Private Hire vehicle used under his/her Operator Licence in respect of the carriage of passengers for hire or reward. Where individual drivers choose to arrange their own motor insurance cover, the Operator must examine the insurance for such drivers on a frequent basis to ensure lawful requirements have been met.
 - L. If the Operator has premises to which the public have access in connection with the hiring of vehicles, he shall ensure that there is sufficient public liability insurance in force, which indemnifies him/her against any claim for loss, damage or personal injury by any person using those premises.
 - M. To operate a Private Hire Business from a residential dwelling, planning permission for such business use, will normally be required. A Private Hire Operator's licence will not be granted without evidence that either planning permission has been issued in respect of the premises concerned or planning permission is not required in respect of the limited use which is proposed.
 - N. The records required to be kept by the operator under Section 52(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 shall be kept in a suitable book or on a computer or any other recordable device. The records must be kept for a minimum of twelve months. If a book is used, the pages must be numbered consecutively and the operator shall enter or cause to be entered before commencement of each journey, the following particulars of every booking accepted:
 - i. the time and date of the booking
 - ii. the name of the hirer
 - iii. the time of the proposed pick up
 - iv. the point of pick up and drop off
 - v. the registration or licence plate number of the vehicle allocated for the booking and the name of the driver.
 - Vi If receiving a sub-contracted booking from another operator, the above must be recorded alongside the following details: The name and the Licensing Authority of the Sub-contracting Operator.

- vii. If sub-contracting a job, the following details must be recorded: the name of the Operator to whom the job is sub-contracted and the name of their Licensing Authority.
- O. Operators are expected to take seriously their duties with regard to safety of drivers and the safeguarding of the public. To aid in this duty, an operator shall record any customer complaint or concerns raised by either a driver or passenger they receive regarding the attitude or behaviour of a driver or passenger. The Operator is expected to make such records available to an authorised Officer or Police Officer upon request. These records should:
- Be kept securely and remain confidential for a minimum period of 1 year and confidentially destroyed thereafter;
 - Include the name, address and contact number of the complainant;
 - Record the details of the complaint;
 - Record details of the driver to which the complaint relates;
 - Record the action the operator has taken.
 - Where 3 or more substantiated complaints are received regarding a particular driver in a rolling 12 month period, the operator shall be expected to notify the Licensing Authority without delay.
 - If any complaints/concerns are received regarding sexual or inappropriate words/behaviour by drivers, these complaints must be reported to the Licensing Authority within 2 working days, regardless of the number of previous complaints.
 - Operators are also required to keep an incident log for driver's safety. Drivers should be able to log incidents for example: non-payment, racial abuse, physical or verbal abuse by a customer. An Operator should undertake a written risk assessment in light of a barring policy if a passenger is abusive, violent, racist, towards a driver.
 - Operators, from time to time, will be given addresses by Gwent Police or Social Services to which that they should not dispatch vehicles or a password system may be put in place with carers or parents of family.
 - Operators should have a policy in regard to transporting children under 10 years old without adult supervision during their normal business of provision of Private Hire transport (this excludes School and Social Services contracts which are subject to requirements as determined by those departments).

The Operator shall also keep records of the particulars of all Private Hire vehicles and drivers operated by him, which shall include:

- A copy of the private hire vehicle licence issued by the Council
- A copy of the Private Hire driver's licence or badge issued by the Council together with details of any radio call signals.
- Valid Insurance certificate used by the driver.

All records kept by the operator shall be kept for a period of not less than twelve months following the date of the entry and shall be made available upon request to an Authorised Officer of the Council, Police Officer or any other relevant duly authorised Officer of an Enforcement Agency including HMRC.

- P. The Operator must allow access to the premises identified as the Operator Premises to the Police and Licensing Officers at all times (this includes Operators who operate from a home address.)
- Q. Operators can only dispatch a "Prestige" vehicle only when the booking involves no cash work or the vehicle is booked at least 1 hour before the commencement of the journey or the operator has a written contract with particular business(es) or person.

LEGISLATION

The holder of every Private Hire Operator vehicle licence shall comply with the provisions relating to Private Hire vehicles contained in the following legislation:

- Town Police Clauses Act 1847,
- Part II Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976,
- Road Traffic Act 1988 Part 11 (a) Construction and Use of Vehicles and Equipment, Equality Act 2010

Appendix E

Newport City Council Private Hire Livery



Newport Hackney Carriage Livery

