

Northampton Taxi and Private Hire Licensing

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Northampton Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter.

We aim to share with you, updates and developments that are being undertaken

We welcome any suggestions about items that you might like to see included within any future newsletters.

So please take some time to read this publication, find out what we are doing and get in touch with us if you want to discuss any of the information provided.

*Ruth Austen, Environmental
& Licensing Manager, NBC*

CHANGES TO VEHICLE BRACKETS

It has become an increasing problem that licensed vehicle plates are not being displayed correctly.

Therefore in a drive to improve compliance and in order to promote public safety, the council have decided to implement a new type of vehicle licence bracket. This bracket can be secured more firmly onto licensed vehicles and in the future should you need a replacement bracket, these can be purchased directly from suppliers, without the need to obtain a bracket from the council.

The new bracket will be introduced from Monday **5th February 2018** and will be fitted by the council's approved garages when your vehicle is next presented for its MOT & Taxi/Private Hire Vehicle Inspection.

There are three types of brackets that will be issued according to your type of vehicle as detailed below

Main Bracket
Euro Bracket
UA1 Bracket

You may wish to make a note of which type of bracket that fits your vehicle, in the event that you need to order a replacement bracket in the future.

It is a condition of your vehicle licence that plates are displayed in clear and consistent manner. Once you have been fitted with a new bracket the council will take further action against any licence holder who fails to display a plate on the rear of the vehicle in the bracket that has been provided. The initial bracket will be provided free of charge but you may be charged for the fixing by the Garage.

CONTACT US

Tel: 01604 838545

Email:

licensing@northampton.gov.uk

Address: The Guildhall,
Northampton, NN1 1DE

DBS & MEDICAL checks....if yours is due then make arrangements to get it done as soon as possible. If you cannot show us a current DBS or Medical then it may be a consideration you are not a 'fit and proper' person to hold a licence with this council. Remember, as soon as you receive your certificate from DBS you should produce it at the One Stop Shop (no appointment required). If you haven't done this **within 3 months** of its date then it won't be accepted and you WILL be required to get another one done.



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If you do not have access to a computer, you will be able to use the self-serve terminals in the One Stop Shop, The Guildhall.

If you need assistance directly with a member of the licensing team, the easiest way to get in touch is by completing the contact us form at www.northampton.gov.uk You can select the option to contact the licensing service and a member of the team will get back to you to discuss your enquiry.

NOTIFYING US OF CHANGES.....

Please use the contact us form on the website to advise us about a change in circumstances.

It is a requirement that you notify the licensing department of a change in your circumstances.

For example you should notify the licensing department of.....

A change in your Operator company,
A change in your residential address,
Any Convictions/Cautions/Motoring Offences etc.
Any Medical Conditions that may affect your Group 2 Standard.

We will no longer accept details of these changes verbally and you must submit a notice of the change by using the '[Contact Us](#)' form.

This will ensure that all parties have evidence that this information has been provided.

APPOINTMENTS & FEES

Online Services

Vehicle Renewal	£ 93.00
Private Hire Driver Renewal	£140.00
Hackney Driver Renewal	£140.00
Combined Driver Renewal	£140.00

Payment can be made by debit or credit card.

One Stop Shop "Drop In" Scanning Services

Vehicle Renewal Documents
Disclosure & Barring Certificates (DBS)
Medical Certificates

NOTE: You will still need appointments with the Licensing Team at The Guildhall for the following services:-

Licensing Team Appointment Services (ring to book appointment on 01604 838711 option 1)

Application for a DBS Certificate	£44.00
New Vehicle Licence Applications	£99.00
Transfer of Vehicle Licence Applications	£12.00
New Driver Applications & Identification Documents.	

Payment can be made by debit, credit card or cheque.

The council no longer have the facility to accept postal order payments.



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EMISSIONS POLICY UPDATE

Last year the Council undertook a consultation on the proposed changes regarding emission standards of taxi and private hire vehicles licensed by this authority.

The results of this consultation and a proposed Low Emission Licensed Vehicle Policy was presented at a public meeting to the Licensing Committee on the 5th December 2017.

The proposed policy was adjourned for a decision until around March 2018. This decision can be viewed on the council's [website](#)

VULNERABLE PERSONS IMPORTANT MESSAGE.....

Taxis and private hire vehicles have been called by third parties to pick up and transport young girls/boys to numerous locations. Please be aware of any lone passengers under 18. Any concerns or suspicious behaviour please report to the RISE team (Reducing incidents of Sexual Exploitation) rise@northants.pnn.police.uk

OUT TONIGHT DO IT RIGHT....

Over the last year the council has been running an [awareness campaign](#) on how to have a safe and enjoyable night out in our town.

As licensed drivers, you play a vital role in keep people safe when enjoying a night out. Your business depends upon the trust that you are given in transporting members of the public safely. If you have any concerns about the welfare of individuals, please raise this immediately with an appropriate person, for example this could be a street pastor, a police officer and your Operator.

Licensing enforcement checks will continue around the night time economy and drivers will be reported if caught acting illegally.

USEFUL WEBSITES

DBS Update Service

<https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service>

Information on Roadwork's

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/Pages/Roadworks.a>

SPX

Credit Union

<http://www.northamptonshirecu.co.uk/>

LICENSING ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement Officers took a number of drivers to Licensing Committee throughout 2017 on the grounds they are not a 'fit and proper' person to hold a licence with this Council.

These include drivers who have previously been stopped for illegally plying for hire (flagging) and have already attended a Safety Awareness Course. Their appearance has usually resulted in a suspension. Enforcement operations for 'flagging' will continue, Private Hire vehicles can only take pre-booked jobs!

There have been several vehicle safety check operations in recent weeks in coordination with the Police & DVSA. **The latest checks in December resulted in 60% of those checked being all clear.** This was a slight improvement on previous months' checks. Remember, public safety is of paramount importance to the Council, it's your responsibility to make sure your vehicle is road legal before you start your day. Can you afford to be taken off the road?

HACKNEY & PRIVATE HIRE REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

Useful information and downloads relating to Hackney, Private Hire drivers and vehicles including Child Sexual Exploitation can be found on the [Council website](#).