



Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Newsletter

April 2024

Badges

Please be reminded that drivers should carry the drivers identity lapel badge provided by the Council on their person at all times when in charge of a licensed vehicle, and it must be displayed in such manner and position so as to be plainly visible.

Drivers badges are an important part of providing customer assurance. Checks will be made by Licensing Officers in respect of this, so please sure that you are displaying yours. If you have lost or mislaid your badge then please contact the Licensing Team.

VAT Treatment of Private Hire Vehicles

A consultation on the VAT treatment of private hire vehicles has been launched by HM Treasury. Responses should be sent by 8 August 2024 via email to: phvovatconsultation@hmrc.gov.uk, or via post to: HM Treasury, VAT & Excise Team, 1 Horse Guard's Rd, London, SW1A 2HQ.

Changes in Medical Circumstances

A number of drivers have presented with medical issues which have arisen sometime prior to their renewals. Please be reminded that licence holders must immediately advise the Council of any deterioration of their health that may affect their driving capabilities and which may negate their ability to pass a Group 2 medical standard examination. Examples include high blood pressure, angina, diabetes, vision disorder, fainting, or blackouts.

Where there is any doubt as to the medical fitness of the applicant, the Council may require the applicant to undergo and pay for a further medical examination by a Doctor appointed by the Council. The Doctor's recommendation will be final.

Accident Reporting and Inspection following Accidents

Please be reminded that if any licensed vehicle is involved in an accident, this must be reported to the Licensing Office as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case, within seventy-two hours of the occurrence of the accident. Accident reports may be made by

telephone, in person or through emailing a specified [accident form](#) which can be downloaded from the Council's website.

Old Torrington Road

In our February newsletter we detailed that the Licensing Team had been in dialogue with Devon County Council (DCC) in respect of the bus gate in Old Torrington Road, Barnstaple. The position is that taxi and private hire vehicles are not permitted to access this stretch of highway. Councillors have reported that a number of taxi and private hire vehicles continue to utilise the bus gate, please be mindful to adhere to the appropriate restrictions. Any queries should be directed to DCC directly.

DBS Update Service

Please be reminded that applicants wishing to renew a driver's licence are required to sign up to the [DBS Update Service](#).

If you are not already signed up then you will be required to provide a new enhanced DBS certificate with your renewal application and then sign up to the Update Service within **30 days** from the certificate issue date.

Driver licences will be renewed with conditions if your DBS application is still being processed at the time your renewal application is submitted. You will have six weeks from the issue of your badge renewal to provide a copy of your DBS and confirmation that you have joined the DBS update service. **Failure to do this will mean that you will have to apply for a new enhanced DBS.**

Important information about DBS update service:

- If you have signed up for the DBS update service you are advised to retain your original DBS certificate.
- If your certificate is lost or misplaced then you will be required to apply for a new DBS
- If you change address you will need to inform the DBS update service but you will not be required to apply for a new DBS certificate.
- If you change your name or have any new convictions, cautions or warnings then you will be required to undertake a new DBS certificate.
- If you have signed up for the service and you lose your credit/debit card or it expires, you will need to contact the DBS update service to provide your new card details. If the DBS update service is unable to debit your account when required and your subscription is stopped, then your disclosure will no longer be valid, therefore a new enhanced DBS will be required.

This and [previous editions](#) of our newsletter are available on our website.