

Department of Environment & Sport

Newsletter

Issue 29 March 2015

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Service

Welcome to our latest edition in which we cover the new 'drug driving law'; enforcement updates; and much more. Please read on for details!

The Licensing Team

Easter Closure Periods

The Easter period is approaching and therefore the HC/PH service will be closed on Good Friday, 3rd April, and Easter Monday, 6th April.

We will reopen at 9.30am on Tuesday 7th April.

If you have an urgent matter or you know that your plate or badge expires over the Easter period please contact us urgently on taxi.testing@bradford.gov.uk

Workshop – Bulb Kits Available

The workshop is pleased to announce the facility to supply bulb kits to private hire & hackney carriage drivers

The kits are available for just £5.50 which is well under the retail price which is about £9.50.

2 weeks ago the workshop supplied 10 kits and the drivers have been happy with service.

The opportunity to purchase the bulb kits is entirely optional and has been done to help drivers so that they are compliant with the licensing conditions.

Please speak to workshop staff if you are interested when you take your vehicle for test.

Enforcement Updates

Littering Campaign

In recent weeks it has been brought to our notice that some licensed drivers have been seen depositing litter from their vehicles onto the Highway.

This is a reminder to all Licence holders that anyone caught littering can be reported and may have to pay a fine. Please dispose of your litter by either taking it home or using roadside litter bins.

Litter action days have already started across the district and will be stepped up as part of the Council 'Neighborhood Clean up Campaign'. Please visit the below website for further details:

http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/transport_and_infrastructure/street_care_and_cleaning/litter

Parking

There has been an escalation in complaints regarding licensed vehicles parking without consideration towards local residents. For example, parking in parking bays; waiting on double yellow and single yellow lines; double parking to load and unload passengers.

Parking Bays are provided for shoppers / local commuters to use when visiting the area.

Yellow lines are designed to ease traffic flow through the district and avoid congestion.

Being licensed vehicles you are easily identified. Think before you park!

| Contact Details | Opening Hours |
|--|---|
| Licensing Officers – 01274 434316 | Tues 9.30 – 3pm, Mon & Wed - Fri 8.30 – 3pm |
| Workshop – 01274 433587 | Monday – Friday 7.45am – 3.00pm |
| Email – taxi.testing@bradford.gov.uk | |

Changes to the drug driving law

On 2 March 2015 the drug driving law changed to make it easier for the police to catch and convict drug drivers. It is now an offence to drive with certain drugs above a specified level in your blood – just as it is with drink driving.

Sixteen legal and illegal drugs are covered by the law, including cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and ketamine. The limits for all illegal drugs are extremely low. Taking even a very small amount of an illegal drug could put you over the limit.

The new offence will work alongside the existing offence of driving whilst impaired through drink or drugs. The penalties for drug driving are the same as for drink driving. If you are convicted you will receive:

- A minimum 12-month driving ban
- A criminal record
- A fine of up to £5,000 or up to six months in prison, or both

The consequences of a drug drive conviction are far reaching and can include:

- Revocation of your licence
- Losing your independence
- The shame of a criminal record
- Higher car insurance costs
- Trouble getting in to countries such as the USA

You can read more on the government's [road safety](#) website.

Out of Area Vehicles

Enforcement Officers have been checking Operator bases to ensure all Hackney Carriages are operating to current licence standards. These checks are still ongoing and include the following:

- copy of the drivers DVLA licence
- copy of the MOT certificate,
- If out of area copy of the issuing council's Drivers & vehicle Licence.
- Copy of the vehicle's insurance and if out of area a letter from the insurance company stating that they are aware the driver is working in the Bradford district.
- Out of area hackney carriage vehicles need to have evidence that the vehicle has undertaken either a main dealer or Bradford Council annual vehicle safety check
- Evidence that all drivers are completing daily vehicle checks and that there is a system in place that checks these.
- drivers training records (have you identified which drivers require refresher training)
- it is important that all these records are available 24 hours a day, does your radio operator know who can carry out a request for a vehicle with wheelchair access and what your fees are)

Please make sure you have the above details readily available when being checked. Thanks for your co-operation.

Operators – Driver Training

This is a reminder, following from an email to all Operators earlier this month, that Operators should be booking their drivers for driver training courses by contacting the training department.

They can be contacted on 01274 437967.

The training department can't accept calls from individual drivers.

Trade Rep Associations

If any of you have points/comments you would like to share then please see your trade reps and they will be able to raise them on your behalf.

Association contact details are on the website: www.bradford.gov.uk/taxiandprivatehire

Contact details

If you would like more information about this newsletter or would like to provide an article for possible inclusion in a future newsletter, please contact:

Matthew Bibby, Licensing Support Officer:
taxi.testing@bradford.gov.uk

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