

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NEWS LETTER

Edition No: 4
August 2019

A very warm welcome to the fourth newsletter from your Hackney Carriage & Private Hire team at Bradford Council. In this newsletter you will find information about the Service, what's happening, as well as lots of information which will help you day to day.

Please take time to read through this newsletter, our objectives are to provide you with an overview of the changes we are working on and to produce articles that are informative and helpful to you. Please visit our website: www.bradford.gov.uk/taxiandprivatehire to stay current and up to date about the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Service.



Compliments the Service has received

On average the Licensing Service receive around 3,400 emails every month. Amongst these emails we receive positive feedback from drivers; and one driver in particular Mr Eric D. Bishop who works for Metro - Go in Keighley sent the service a poem, to say thank you for the service he has received.



FREE BADMINTON SESSIONS FOR ALL LICENSED DRIVERS

All Licensed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers are invited to attend 2 FREE Badminton sessions. The sessions will be held on Wednesday 28th August 11am – 1pm and Monday 2nd September 7pm – 9pm at The Grange Interlink, Summerville Road, Bradford, BD7 1PX. You do not need to pre-book onto the sessions you just need to ensure you take your Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Badge with you.

These sessions are a good way for drivers to get active and healthy. You need to ensure that you are dressed appropriately either in shorts or tracksuit bottoms and that you take some water to stay hydrated.



In response to Mr Bishop's poem the Service decided to respond and say thank you with a poem of our own. Both poems can be located in the Business Operator Notes from June 2019, which can be found by clicking [here](#).



Digital Forms

'Digital Forms' is the new name for iApply – the system that will be used for you to apply for new/renewal licences on-line. The name of the software has been changed by the supplier, but this has not changed how it looks.

Information and training sessions will be held in various places across the district throughout October and November; these sessions are designed to help you access and learn about the system. You'll be able to have a go at using the on-line application forms, uploading documents and see what the response email looks like. We would like as many people as possible to attend the sessions so you are prepared when the system becomes available to everyone in January 2020.

We will be sending more information regarding specific dates and venues in the next few weeks. We look forward to seeing you in October & November!



Vehicle Proprietor Application Form

We have been running an online renewal process for your Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence for some time now; we are delighted to announce that on Monday 5th August 2019 we launched the online facility for you to apply for a new/renewal vehicle licence.

You will be sent a reminder to your registered email address 6 weeks before the expiry date of your current licence.

When you are completing the online application form for renewal vehicles, you will need to upload a copy of your logbook (V5) and valid insurance. If you are applying for a new vehicle licence you will need to upload your logbook or new keepers slip and email your insurance to taxi.testing@bradford.gov.uk at least 3 working days before your vehicle inspection.

Not completing any of the steps mentioned above may result in a delay to licensing your vehicle.

Declaration of Cautions, Convictions and Penalty Points

It is against the law for a new applicant not to declare any cautions, convictions or penalty points on their legally binding Statutory Declaration. It is also a condition of licence that all licenced Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers must report any cautions, convictions and penalty points they receive to the Service, within 7 days.

The Suitability Policy that has been in place since 1st March 2019 is used by the Service when assessing the fitness and propriety of all drivers.

If you would like to read through the document you can do so by clicking here: [Suitability policy](#).



Air Quality



Plate Collection

The plate collection in the workshop is going really well and the Service is continuously receiving positive feedback from the drivers. Everyone attending Shearbridge is stating they prefer collecting their plates straight after their test.

There are two things that require some improvement as they have resulted in the plates not being collected straight after the vehicle inspection.

1) No insurance has been sent in for new vehicles. When booking a new vehicle all drivers are advised that we need a copy of the insurance certificate at least 3 days before the vehicle inspection date to ensure that plates can be collected on the same day.

2) Drivers are arriving for their vehicle test with no badge. Please remember that it is a legal requirement for all drivers to wear their badge at all times when driving a licenced vehicle.

The above examples are simple things that can be avoided. Remembering these will mean you will not need to return to Shearbridge to collect your plates.

As part of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Air Quality development plans there are 88 electric vehicle rapid-charging points being installed across West Yorkshire, 20 of which will be in Bradford.

On Friday 2nd August 2019 the first two charging points were opened on Vicar Lane in the top car park. There are more locations to follow within the Bradford District.

Each of the locations will have two electric charging points. One of these will be dedicated for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire use only as they will have ability to provide rapid charging, free until 29th October 2021.

On Tuesday 23rd July 2019 the Licensing Service held an Open Invitation day for all Operators and Proprietors to come down and look around 2 fully electric vehicles that were being showcased. These vehicles were the Nissan ENV200 and a TX the new electric taxi. The demonstration was very well attended and received by the trade.

More information about the Nissan ENV200 can be found by clicking here: [Nissan ENV200](#).

More information about the TX all electric taxi can be found by clicking here: [TX Electric Taxi](#).

Online Application Forms

The Service is streamlining the services it offers to all licensed personnel. To progress this, the Service has introduced two new electronic forms that can be used to inform us of changes.

Change of Address – So you can notify the Service easily if you change your address you will now use the new online form. Before you start completing the new online form make sure you have your driving licence with your new address as this will need to be uploaded before the form can be submitted. This form can be found by clicking here: [Change of Address](#).

Change of Operator – When you wish to change the operator you work for, or to add any additional operators to your existing badge, you will now use the new electronic form. Before you start completing the new online form make sure you have a letter from the new operator you wish to work for as this will need to be uploaded before the form can be submitted. This form can be found by clicking here: [Change of Operator](#).

Are Part Worn tyres worth the cost?

As a licenced driver you are on the road for the majority of your day and you travel more miles than a regular road user, therefore it essential that your vehicle is safe for both you and your passengers.

Many people think they are getting a bargain when purchasing a part worn tyre, however, when purchasing a tyre you should consider the cost per mm of useable tyre rather than the initial cost.

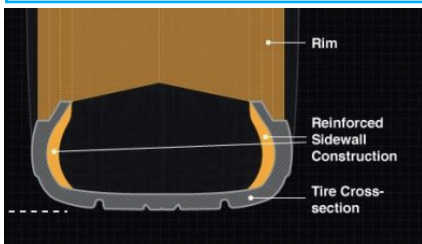
New tyres are sold with 8-10mm of tread whereas part worn tyres may have as little as 2mm. The legal tread depth is 1.6mm which means in the long run a part worn tyre may work out more expensive for you. With the mileage you cover on a daily basis the tread on a part worn tyre is not likely to last that long meaning a new tyre would have to be purchased leading to additional cost to drivers.



Part worn tyre safety

As a licenced driver it is your responsibility to ensure that your vehicle is safe to carry fare paying passengers.

The tread depth on a tyre is essential for safe driving on wet roads. It is the tread on tyres that disperses water from the road allowing a better grip. As we all know, the weather in the UK is rather unpredictable so it is better to be prepared and purchase tyres with a decent tread depth as this will increase safety and reduce stopping distances.



Run Flat Tyres

Run flat tyres are designed to allow road users to continue their journey for a limited amount of time even after they have received a puncture. These tyres are fitted with a reinforced sidewall to hold the weight of the car when the tyre pressure drops; and will last up to another 50 miles before the tyre needs replacing.

Bradford MDC do allow licenced vehicles to have run flat tyres fitted, if their vehicle is equipped with a Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) and the tyre is correct for that specific vehicle.

The TPMS alerts the driver in the event of a puncture, or if the tyre pressure drops below a certain level. Using a run flat tyre on a vehicle that is not equipped with a TPMS would be highly dangerous and may cause a serious accident.

The two main reasons a vehicle may fail an inspection for tyres resulting in a serious defect and incurring a £100 retest fee are;

- The vehicle has run flat tyres fitted but the vehicle is not equipped with a TPMS
- The vehicle is equipped with a TPMS but the run flat tyres that are fitted are not correct for that vehicle.