

Appendix 2

Extract from Taxi Licensing Policy Vehicle Age Limits

3.5 Maximum age of vehicle

- 1) All vehicles, other than wheelchair accessible vehicles, must be less than 5 years old when first licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle;
- 2) No Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle, other than wheelchair accessible vehicles, will be re-licensed after reaching 10 years old;
- 3) All vehicles that are wheelchair accessible vehicles must be less than 7 years old when first licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle;
- 4) No wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle will be re- licensed after reaching 14 years old;
- 5) Any vehicle may be licensed or relicensed outside of these age limits, but any such an application must be referred to a Licensing Regulatory Sub-Committee for consideration

Extract from Taxi Licensing Policy – Executive hire

10. Private hire licensing: Executive hire, chauffeur services, airport travel etc.

10.1 Introduction

Some private hire businesses provide what they refer to as ‘Executive Hire Cars’. Although clearly private hire vehicles, they are often used by companies, firms and hotels to transport visitors, senior members of staff in a more discreet manner, and are perceived as being more akin to a chauffeur driven vehicle than a private hire vehicle.

Private hire licence plates are a statutory requirement and it is South Lakeland District Council’s policy to require signage on private hire vehicles in line with the conditions approved by the Licensing Regulatory Sub-Committee. These measures identify a vehicle as a properly licensed private hire vehicle and avoid confusion with hackney carriages.

However, private hire businesses providing what they refer to as executive hire may wish to apply for exemption from the requirements to display private hire plates and signage because of the nature of their vehicle(s) AND their business. A Licensing Regulatory Sub Committee will determine any such application where this policy cannot be implemented through delegation arrangements.

This document sets out our policy concerning the executive hire exemption referred to above. It is designed to help you to decide whether to make an application for exemption and to guide (but not bind) the Licensing Sub Committee should they need to determine an application.

10.2 The type of work which may be deemed to be executive hire

Examples of the type of work which are considered to be executive hire are as follows:

- Corporate bookings to transport employees and clients on business related journeys
- Other journeys where the client specifically requires a vehicle without any private hire plates or signage on it at the time of booking
- The fact that the hirer pays a higher fee for hiring what may be referred to as an executive hire car (compared to what the hirer may pay for a non-exempt private hire vehicle displaying private hire plates and signage) may be indicative (but not conclusive) that the nature of the business is executive hire and that the exemption may be appropriate.

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10.3 Types of vehicles which may be granted exemption

The average person may envisage an executive to travel in a prestige vehicle being of materially higher specification than a standard vehicle. Examples of vehicle types perceived to be prestige from the sample of people we asked were [Mercedes, BMW, Audi, Jaguar and Lexus].

The council do not wish to form a prescriptive list of acceptable vehicles because this may be subjective and also require frequent update. Conversely, the council do not wish to restrict the types of vehicles which may be top of the range and therefore deemed to hold prestige status. Instead, the council set out a range of general criteria that leaves it open to the private hire vehicle trade to put forward vehicles of its own choice which can be shown to meet the criteria. This will enable flexibility if the circumstances merit it.

The following may be indicative (but not conclusive) that a vehicle is an executive hire car and conditions that relate to executive hire therefore apply:

- Engine size of 2000cc or greater
- Each seat is of adequate dimension and permits direct access into and out of the side doors of the vehicle without the need to move, remove or fold down any seat. Vehicle types which are capable of seating more than four passengers will be considered for the exemption but will only be licensed for, in the opinion of the authority, the number of passengers who can travel comfortably. This consideration relates to the level of comfort that the average person may believe an executive hire car should afford
- Evidence to show that the vehicle is a prestige or top of the range as represented by the vehicle manufacture
- Relevant considerations as to whether a vehicle is an executive hire car include but are not limited to cost, reputation, specification, appearance, perception and superior comfort levels
- The vehicle has a minimum specification of air conditioning/climate control, all electric windows, central locking and suitable front and rear headrests for each passenger
- Vehicles will need to fulfil the current age requirements for private hire vehicles

10.4 Exemptions to executive hire

Private hire vehicle owners who undertake only executive hiring and wish their vehicles to be exempt from the need to display a licence plate and identifying signage need to apply for exemption which would be granted by way of an exemption certificate.

There is no longer any exemption for a vehicle from licensing where it is used only for carrying passengers for hire or reward under a contract for the hire of the vehicle for a period of not less than seven days. The abolition of a previously existing exemption, by the way of The Road Safety Act 2006, Section 53 requires all such vehicles to be licensed as private hire vehicles and drivers of such vehicles must hold a private hire vehicle licence. In general the following vehicles, if they seat up to eight persons will now need a private hire vehicle licence:

- Stretched limousines
- Executive hire
- Chauffeur services
- Airport transfer services
- Hotel cars
- Club & pub transport
- Courtesy services where passengers are driven
- Some hospital car services and school car services – if they are used for both patient transfer and social events

If you are in any doubt as to whether you need a private hire vehicle licence or not, you should contact the licensing team.

Refer to Appendix O for vehicle and driver conditions.