



Town Hall
Station Road
Clacton on Sea
Essex CO15 1SE

April 2025

Welcome to Taxi News for April 2025. I hope you find the below information useful.

Reminder On Vehicles and Age

Granting of new vehicles must meet the minimum requirements of Euro 6 Emissions standards.

You are reminded that renewal of vehicles that currently achieve Euro 5 Emission standards will be permitted until 1 January 2026.

In the interests of improving air quality, any application for the renewal of a Taxi or PHV licence that fails to meet these standards will be refused.

No vehicle capable of carrying more than 8 passengers can be licensed by the Council.

For vehicles over (10) ten years of age there shall be a requirement for a third mechanical test.

Documentation

Regarding the penalty points system in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, it is noted that there is still a large number of points being given out since the introduction of the new policy due to documents being provided after their expiry date, such as mechanical test certificate, MOT certificates and insurance documents.

We ask you to please keep track of these dates pertinent to your vehicles and to please let us know in advance (as soon as you can) if documents are going to be provided late, as if there is an acceptable reason for this then penalty points can be avoided.

In regard to all documentation, licence holders are given until midnight on the date of the document expiry to get documents to us before points are given. Anything received after this time is considered late and invalid.

For example, if an MOT expires on 01/01/2024, then drivers will be given until 23:59 on 01/01/2024 to get the updated MOT certificate to us.

Daily Vehicle Inspections

Following recent inspections carried out by our Licensing Enforcement Officer, it is noted that many licence holders are not carrying out the daily vehicle inspections as required in the Policy.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the licensed driver driving the vehicle to check its condition while in use. Drivers are required to carry out daily routine vehicle inspections with a walkaround check. Checks must include lights, tyres, wipers, mirrors, seatbelts, fire extinguisher and taxi plates and any fault are to be rectified to ensure the safety of the vehicle and before carrying passengers.

A record of these checks must be kept as ad-hoc inspections of these will be undertaken. Records should be kept for a minimum 30 day period. There is a form that can be completed in the Policy, but if you require a copy to be sent to you please contact the Licensing Team and this can be arranged.

Vehicle Plates

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy brought in a new requirement for a **front licence plate** to be displayed in addition to the one which is located at the rear of a licensed vehicle.

This requirement has now been rolled out over the last year and all vehicles will now have both a front and rear licence plate. Please ensure that both plates are attached to the vehicle correctly.

The plate may be affixed by use of cable ties or a bracket attached to the registration plate, or if this is not practical, by attaching the plate platform to the bodywork of the vehicle.

As a reminder, the licensing team have a few plate platforms for the front plate that sit underneath the number plate which can be purchased for a fee of £15 should you require one.

It is not acceptable to have any of the plates located in the front windscreen or rear windows of the vehicle and if a licence holder is seen to be either displaying the plate incorrectly or not at all, then they may be given enforcement penalty points in accordance with the Policy. There is an exception for temporary insurance vehicles.

Smoking in Taxis

We are still to this day receiving regular reports of drivers smoking in their vehicles and so I take this opportunity to clarify the law in regard to smoking.

It has been an offence since 2007 under the Health Act 2006 to smoke or allow smoking in enclosed public areas including workplaces. As licensed taxis are classed as a workplace it is irrelevant that it may be your own personal vehicle; it is still legally classed as a workplace during which a vehicle licence is in force.

As authorised officers, we are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to anyone who is seen to be smoking, allowing another person to smoke, or failing to display non-smoking signs in their vehicle.

A driver can also be issued Enforcement Penalty Points issued in accordance with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Repeated breaches will call into question whether you are regarded as a 'fit and proper' person to hold a taxi licence and will likely result in you being requested to go before the Licensing Committee where you could potentially have your licence revoked.

Vehicle Roof Lights

It has been noted by officers that there is an increasing number of vehicles whereby the vehicle roof lights do not appear to be working correctly when the vehicle is being used as a Hackney Carriage

Please note that it is a requirement that any Hackney Carriage that is available for hire must be illuminated.

Applications/Documents/Payments

Applications should be submitted via e-mail (licensingsection@tendringdc.gov.uk or taxi@tendringdc.gov.uk) payments can be made over the telephone using either a credit or debit card.

Please ensure that the email document is no larger than 25mb as these are unable to pass the Council's email security system.

Private Hire – Record Keeping

The record required to be kept by the operator under Section 56(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 shall be kept on a prescribed booking pad, or on a spreadsheet, or on trade specific computer system. This software must be capable of providing the information listed below. The entries must be numbered consecutively, and no pages should be removed. The operator shall enter the required information for each booking invited or accepted by him, before the commencement of each journey.

- The time and date of the booking
- The name and address of the hirer
- How the booking was made (i.e. by telephone, personal call etc.)
- The time of pick-up
- The point of pick-up
- The destination
- The time at which a driver was allocated to the booking
- The name and licence number of the driver and the registration number of the vehicle allocated for the booking.
- Fare (if agreed at the time of booking) or indication that the meter was used.
- The name of the booking staff
- The name of the dispatcher
- Remarks (including details of any sub-contract).

All records kept by the operator shall be preserved for a period of not less than 12 months, following the date of the last entry. In the case of computer records the entries must be capable of being printed on demand and/or emailed in a universal format at the request of a Police officer or the licensing officer.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy

It is important that you read through and familiarise yourself with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy.

The policy can be found on the council website <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/taxi-private-hire-policy> or by scanning the QR code below.



Tendring District Council Devolution

You may be aware that the government has launched its consultation on the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP). This is seeking views on the proposal to form a mayoral combined county authority in Greater Essex, and in other areas across the country confirmed to join the priority programme.

In December 2024, the government published the English Devolution White Paper. This sets out plans to move power out of Westminster and back to local communities, ensuring that every part of England is covered by devolution.

The local authority leaders from councils have since written to government expressing their interest in taking forward devolution within their area through the establishment of a Mayoral Combined County Authority, with the first election for a mayor taking place in May 2026. Before taking a decision on whether to proceed with the making of the necessary legislation, the government is seeking views from interested parties, including those who live and work in the area.

To provide your views please visit the Government's Greater Essex devolution Consultation <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-essex-devolution/greater-essex-devolution-consultation>

We will do our best to update you on taxi licensing around the devolution as and when we have further information.