

TAXI NEWS

May 2020

WEBSITE COPY

Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver and Vehicles -Coronavirus Covid-19-

Due to recent events, the team have received many questions from drivers and with new guidance from the Government taking place we wanted to establish where we are as a Licensing Authority to answer/give advice with what is happening.

APPLICATIONS

There are no extensions for applications to be submitted. If you still wish to be a taxi driver or drive your vehicle, you will need to renew the application, submit documents and pay the fee as normal.

If you do not wish to use your vehicle as a taxi for the time being please contact the office where we can advise you further regarding this.

As a Licensing Authority, we are now working from home. We have put the measure in place for an officer/s to go into the office once a week, to ensure that any essential printing is completed. Any paperwork you are waiting for will then be sent to you as soon as practicable. We apologise for any delays during this time.

We are not accepting applications for vehicle grants or change of vehicle or new driver applications at the present time.

For drivers who want to post their application/documents please ensure that these are sent via Royal Mail **and not through the post box located at Pier Avenue**. Post received through Royal Mail is being scanned to the team by TDC in order to reduce delay.

If you are sending your documents via e-mail can you please ensure that the file is no larger than 25mb as these are unable to pass the Council's e-mail security system.

HOW TO PAY FEES

Please ensure that you either pay online using the TDC website, or please phone the office on 01255 686565 to pay over the phone. You will need your invoice number for both methods of payment.

Please can we ask that you do not post any cheques or money to our office.

Please note cheques are taking about 4 weeks to be processed.

MECHANICAL TESTS

Our workshop are unable to carry out any mechanical tests at this time, if you receive a letter to book this test, then please ring the office number and you will be advised accordingly.

We are starting to gather information to possibly outsource the mechanical tests however, nothing is guaranteed at the moment and we will update you accordingly.

MOTs

The Government has granted a 6 month extension for MOTs that were due after 30 March 2020, however, upon your original expiry date if you can, you will still need to book your MOT test in with a garage, otherwise you will need to take a screenshot of your MOT check online and send the new date through. MOTs must be carried out and the certificate submitted to the Licensing Office by the expiry of the extended date.

FINANCE

HMRC have set up a help line specifically for those who are self-employed. They will be able to give advice on your tax and any benefits you can claim.

The coronavirus helpline is:
0300 4563565.

STAY SAFE

With the services you are providing by transport, deliveries etc, it is important to stay safe, here are some steps you can take to reduce contact and transmissions

- Leave-at-the-door drop offs
- Regular disinfecting of the vehicle
- Hand sanitation for every person entering the vehicle
- Discourage cash payments
- Passengers sitting in back seats
- If you show any symptoms to not work and self-isolate

As your Licensing Authority, we would like to thank you for your cooperation during this trying time, and we wish you, your families and businesses all the very best.

Any questions please contact us by any of the following methods.

E-mail: taxi@tendingdc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01255 686565

