

Taxi licensing newsletter November 2022

Dear members of the trade

Thank you for taking the time to look at this newsletter, I know you are busy people. I apologise for the length of this newsletter but I cannot send a one liner to cover these subjects. I would ask that you do take the time to read this I am sure some of it will be of interest to you and it keeps you up to date with what is going on with licensing.

1. Forums

Looking ahead to 2023, the first forum next year will take place at the Hythe Centre Egham on Wednesday 22 March 2023 11:00 till 12:00.

Please come along and if you have anything you would like to discuss let me know before Monday the 20th March 2023 and I will put it on the agenda.

Only 2 drivers were at the last forum on 26 October, the main topics covered were the consultation below and hackney fares.

2. CONSULTATION - Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022

We have had a good response from the trade so far so if you have not done this yet please do so.

I mentioned this in our last 2 newsletters but it deserves to be brought to your attention again. It is important that drivers and operators understand this so please read on.

A report went before the Regulatory Committee on 27 September and one of the items discussed was whether we should have a consultation regarding making disability awareness training a mandatory licensing condition for all drivers and operators.

It was agreed that a consultation would take place from 4 October 2022 till 16 November 2022

All drivers and operators have been sent the consultation by email and by post. It is also available on the Councils website where you can complete the consultation and reply online.

[Mandatory disability awareness training for taxi drivers – Runnymede Borough Council](#)

We have kept this as straightforward as possible, the consultation is a yes or no answer with a space for comments should you have any.

Please note it is important that the Councillors making decisions have your views on this subject so please complete and return the consultation as soon as you can.

3. Licence fees for 2023/2024

The licensing fees for the year 2023/2024 were approved by the Regulatory Committee on 8 November 2021.

The fees list and statutory advert (Surrey Advertiser Friday 18 November 2022) are shown at the end of this newsletter for your information.

The difference in fees for vehicles is due to the cost of the ranks at the railway stations this has increased due to their being fewer hackney carriages and the cost of fares changes and adverts.

SWR charges the Council £5000 (plus vat) for ten bays at stations, we pay this yearly and recover this through the HC vehicle fee.

This is still a very good deal with SWR, around £105 a year is far less than surrounding areas drivers pay direct to SWR for ranks spaces.

Despite the Council having an increased taxi licensing deficit any fee rises have been kept to a manageable scale and several charges have reduced.

The closing date for any objections is Friday 16 December 2021.

4. Carrying children

I have been asked to remind drivers about the carriage of children in your vehicles, please be aware of the law.

The law states that all children travelling in the front or rear seat of any car, van or goods vehicle must use the correct child car seat until they are either 135cm in height or 12 years old (whichever comes first). Once they exceed this, they must use an adult seat belt. The driver is responsible for ensuring that children under the age of 14 years are strapped in correctly in accordance with the law.

Private hire operators or hackney carriage proprietors are not required by law to provide child car seats in taxis, private hire vehicles and minicabs.

Some exceptions to the seatbelt laws have been made for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. These are shown in the below paragraphs.

Children under three years old.

If carried in the front seat, an appropriate child restraint must be used (the adult seat belt is not sufficient).

If carried in the rear seat, an appropriate child restraint must be used, if available. If a child car seat is not available in a licensed taxi or licensed private hire car, the child may travel unrestrained in the rear. This is the only exception for children under 3 years. It was introduced for practical rather than safety reasons.

If an appropriate restraint is fitted in the front of the car, but not the rear, children under 3 years old must sit in the front and use that restraint. (the restraint can be moved from the front to the rear, this must be done if using a rearward-facing baby seat and there is a passenger airbag fitted).

Children aged 3 years to their 12th birthday

If carried in the front seat, an appropriate child restraint must be worn if available. If not, an adult seat belt must be worn.

If carried in the rear seat, an appropriate child restraint must be worn if available. If not, an adult seat belt must be worn, if available.

If an appropriate restraint or seat belt is fitted in the front of the car, but not in the rear, children between 3 and 11 years old and under 1.35 metres tall must use that restraint or seat belt. (it is possible of course to move the restraint from the front to the rear if required).

Passengers Over 14 years old

If carried in the front or rear seat, an adult seat belt must be worn if available.

The fixed penalty for failing to wear a seat belt as a driver or passenger is a £100 fine. If the case is taken to court, this can be up to £500.

5. Making payments

Thanks to those who get the payments right, we are still having quite a few drivers who phone up with no idea what they are paying for!

So please before you phone to pay for your licence make sure you know what you are paying for and how much you are paying.

All drivers and operators are sent a fees list in March, keep this in a safe place so you know the fees when it comes to paying. They are also on our website. [Hackney Carriage and private hire licensing fees – Runnymede Borough Council](#)

If calling to pay by card, please call 01932 838383 and choose option 5 to speak to a customer services advisor who will be happy to take your payment. Please let them know what licence you are paying for i.e. Drivers or vehicle.

Alternatively, if you would rather make a bank transfer, please let us know and we will be happy to send you the Bank details and reference number needed.

Bank transfer to the account below adding your surname and using code FLRT5886 for vehicles, FLRT5843 for 1-year licences and FLRT5844 for a 3-year licence. For operators use FLRT5846 for 1-year licences and FLRT5847 for a 5-year licence.

Lloyds Bank

30-80-12 sort code

11208060 account number

6. Are you short of work / a plea for drivers

On speaking to private hire operators in the borough some have said they have lots of work but not enough drivers, the same comment has been made by some hackney driver businesses.

One operator has asked us to let you know they are looking for drivers, if you are interested and have a euro6 spec car, contact Andy Cook at Image Cars in Addlestone on 01932 827000.

7. Hackney Carriage Ranks

We would like to increase the number of ranks in the area, particularly in Egham, so if you know of a suitable location please let us know.

Robert Smith

Senior Licensing Officer 01932 425711 or licensing@runnymede.gov.uk

RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976- Section 70(3)

Notice is hereby given that Runnymede Borough Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 70(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, intend to vary the following fees in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing with effect from Saturday 1 April 2023.

Type of Licence	Current Fee £	Proposed Fee £
Vehicles		
Grant of Hackney Carriage vehicle licence	307	339
Grant of Private Hire vehicle licence	199	196
Change to or transfer of a vehicle licence	93	67
Change of vehicle licence (i.e. private hire- hackney)	93	67
Temporary vehicle licence	119	92
Private Hire Operators 5 years (one year in brackets)		
1 vehicle owner/driver	523(178)	640(202)
2-5	537(191)	646(207)
6-20	587(241)	671(233)
21 -40	654(309)	706(268)
41 -60	722(376)	740(302)
61 -80	789(443)	775(336)
81 -100	856(511)	809(371)

A copy of this Notice may be inspected free of charge at the Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 2AH, during normal office hours, it can also be viewed on our website at:

[Hackney Carriage and private hire licensing fees – Runnymede Borough Council](#)

Any person wishing to object to the adoption of this revised Table of Fees, where applicable, should do so in writing to the undersigned by Friday 16 December 2022. If no objections are received by this date these fees will come into operation on Saturday 1 April 2023.

Dated:- 14 November 2022

MALeo

Corporate Head of Law and Governance

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Runnymede Borough Council

Vehicle applications			
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (inclusive of railway station rank rental cost)			£ 339.00
Private Hire Vehicle Licence			£ 196.00
Temporary vehicle licence			
Temporary Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Licence for 14 days (extendable to 28 days) when the licence is for a replacement vehicle provided by a specialist company while accident damage repair is being carried out on a currently licensed Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle			£ 92.00
Changes to licence			
Change of vehicle during the licensing period (i.e. TRANSFER to replacement vehicle for balance of licence period – existing plate must be returned)			£ 67.00
Change of vehicle licence during the licensing period (eg. from Private Hire to Hackney Carriage)			£ 67.00
Change of drivers licence during the licensing period (e.g. from Private Hire to Hackney Carriage)			£ 34.00
Drivers licence NEW applications			
Combined Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers Licence or Private Hire Drivers Licence			
3 Years			£ 468.00
1 year			£ 238.00
Drivers licence RENEWAL			
Combined Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers Licence or Private Hire Drivers Licence			
3 Years			£ 411.00
1 Year			£ 178.00
Private Hire Operator's Licence – 5 Year Licence		1 Year Licence	
1 vehicle	£ 640.00	1 vehicle	£ 202.00
2-5 vehicles	£ 646.00	2-5 vehicles	£ 207.00
6-20 vehicles	£ 671.00	6-20 vehicles	£ 233.00
21-40 vehicles	£ 706.00	21-40 vehicles	£ 268.00
41-60 vehicles	£ 740.00	41-60 vehicles	£ 302.00
61-80 vehicles	£ 775.00	61-80 vehicles	£ 336.00
81-100 vehicles	£ 809.00	81-100 vehicles	£ 371.00
Pre application and other charges			
Failure to keep inspection appointment / comply with renewal procedures			£ 50.00
Hackney carriage driver knowledge test.			£ 54.00
Private hire driver knowledge test.			£ 54.00
Private hire operator knowledge test.			£ 54.00
New driver's information pack			£ 25.00
Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) fixed fee (£40) plus processing charges £16.00 Runnymede Borough Council and £9 Surrey County Council.			£ 65.00

