

## Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026

Section	Summary of policy changes
<p><b>DRIVERS</b></p> <p>6.4</p>	<p><i>Issue period of licence</i></p> <p><i>All Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver Licences will be issued for the applied time period as stated in the fees and charges scheme.</i></p> <p>The previous policy requirements mandated a 3 year licence upon grant of an application. This change gives applicants the option to choose a 1, 2, or 3 year licence upon grant on an application. Associated fees will be applicable to the length of licence required.</p>
<p>6.36</p> <p>6.37</p>	<p><i>DBS online update service</i></p> <p><i>It will be mandatory for all Private Hire and Hackney Carriage drivers to be signed up to the DBS online checking service, and maintain continuous registration during the time in which they hold a driver's licence. The driver will be responsible for any associated fees. All drivers must be registered by 1 January 2023.</i></p> <p><i>As all drivers will be signed up to the DBS online update service, the Council will carry out a criminal record check every 6 months. The Council may carry out further checks if they have reasonable cause to do so.</i></p> <p>This will ensure compliance with the Department for Transport's recommendation in their Statutory Taxi &amp; Private Hire Vehicle Standards policy, issued in July 2020 that all drivers should have a continuous registration with the DBS service so that the Council can routinely check for new information. Registration for all drivers is required by 1 January 2023.</p>
<p>6.42</p>	<p><i>Relevance of Convictions and Cautions upon initial application</i></p> <p>The Council has adopted the criteria for the assessment of previous convictions as suggested and recommended by the Department for Transport in their Statutory Taxi &amp; Private Hire Vehicle Standards policy, issued in July 2020.</p> <p>The purpose of adopting these standards regarding previous convictions is to further protect the public when using taxis and private hire vehicles in and around the District.</p> <p>See Appendix A.</p>



	<p><i>since September 2015). Euro 5 compliant engines or older will not be permitted. Any vehicle with a Euro 5 compliant engine or older will not be licensed at the time of renewal.</i></p> <p>The Council has instructed that from 1 September 2025, all vehicles must be fitted with a Euro 6 compliant engine (registered since September 2015).</p> <p>This requirement will assist the Council as it moves towards a more environmentally friendly fleet of licensed vehicles, given that newer vehicles (especially those registered since 2015) have more efficient, greener engines.</p> <p>Taking affect from 1 September 2025, this deadline will allow vehicle proprietors to update their vehicles in good time to meet this criteria.</p>
7.18	<p><i>All vehicles over 3 years of age must have a valid DVSA MOT pass certificate upon first application and annually thereafter.</i></p>
7.19	<p><i>In addition to the MOT testing, the vehicle must also be mechanically tested and inspected by the Council's appointed testing stations every 6 months.</i></p> <p>Introduced to ensure licensed vehicles over 3 years old are regularly inspected for mechanical defects which could be detrimental to public safety.</p>
7.32	<p><i>CCTV and other electronic equipment</i></p> <p>CCTV not mandatory, but recommendations provided should a vehicle proprietor choose to install a CCTV system.</p>
7.81	<p><i>Criminal Record Checks for Vehicle Proprietors</i></p> <p><i>All vehicle licence holders who are not licensed as a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage driver or Private Hire Operator with the Council will be required to undertake a basic DBS check on an annual basis.</i></p> <p>The Council has adopted the criteria for the assessment of vehicle proprietors as suggested and recommended by the Department for Transport in their Statutory Taxi &amp; Private Hire Vehicle Standards policy, issued in July 2020.</p>
<b>PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS</b>	Requirements and Obligations
8.4	

	<p><i>An operator must also be able to demonstrate what steps they are taking to ensure that any licensed driver or member of staff remains a fit and proper person. The operator shall be able to demonstrate that they are taking steps to ensure that all Private Hire vehicles operated by the operator remain fit for purpose to continue to hold a Private Hire vehicle licence.</i></p> <p>The Council has adopted the criteria as suggested and recommended by the Department for Transport in their Statutory Taxi &amp; Private Hire Vehicle Standards policy, issued in July 2020.</p>
8.7	<p><i>Issue period of licence</i></p> <p><i>Applications for a Private Hire operator's licence must be made on the prescribed form, together with the appropriate fee.</i></p> <p>The previous policy requirements mandated a 5 year licence upon grant of an application. This change gives applicants the option to choose a 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 year licence upon grant on an application. Associated fees will be applicable to the length of licence required.</p>
8.25	<p><i>Bases outside the Blaby District Council Area</i></p> <p><i>The Council may grant a Private Hire Operator's licence for an operator with an operating base that is outside Blaby District.</i></p> <p>There is no legislative requirement that prevents Private Hire Operators being based outside the district in which they intend to operate providing that the trinity of licences is in place (operator, driver, vehicle).</p>