



Private Hire Trade Consultation October 2010

The licensing of the private hire trade commenced in 2001 following the passing of legislation in 1998 which covered the licensing of private hire operators, drivers and vehicles in London.

The responsibility for implementing and carrying out private hire licensing falls to Transport for London as part of TfL's Surface Transport as London Taxi and Private Hire (formally the Public Carriage Office).

Since its introduction, only small changes have been made in respect of private hire licensing and therefore, following a comprehensive review to gain a full understanding of the issues faced within the industry, TfL are now launching a consultation with a number of proposals regarding drivers, vehicles and operators.

This consultation seeks views of the private hire trade and other interested parties on a number of suggested changes to private hire regulations and licensing standards. The consultation document incorporates suggestions from trade associations and others, recognising that many aspects of private hire standards are due for review.

A summary of these proposals are set out in this notice however the full consultation document will be published on the TfL website – tfl.gov.uk/tph – as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can request that the document is emailed to you by emailing tph.consultation@tfl.gov.uk. The consultation will close on 24 December 2010 so responses are sought before this date.

If there are specific issues that you feel are not covered within the proposals set out by TfL you are invited to openly respond to the consultation with suggestions and ideas.

Summary of proposals

| Drivers | |
|---------|---|
| 1 | Additional licensing requirements for new drivers |
| 2 | Enhanced driving assessment for new drivers |
| 3 | All drivers to obtain the NVQ in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving |
| 4 | All drivers to display identification to be visible to passengers |
| 5 | No driver is to make a remark of a sexual nature or have any sexual contact in a licensed vehicle |

| Vehicles | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | Replace the existing licence discs and red route signs with consolidated signage |
| 2 | Restrictions on what types of vehicles can be licensed as PHVs, and other measures to clarify the distinction between taxis and PHVs in London |

| Operators | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | Restrictions on operating centres in late night venues and other shared premises |
| 2 | A return to assessing the status of planning permission before granting licences for operating centres |
| 3 | A commitment to comply with parking regulations in the area of the operating centre(s) |
| 4 | Restriction on the acceptance of bookings to a designated area in the licensed premises |
| 5 | An obligation to have arrangements in place to provide accessible vehicles when required (directly or by sub-contract) |
| 6 | Restrictions on small operators and operating centres in residential premises. |
| 7 | A requirement that operators provide a landline number for accepting bookings |
| 8 | A requirement for a standard CRB check on applicants for an operator's licence. |
| 9 | Restrictions on premises where an operator licence would be granted. |

John Mason
Director Taxi and Private Hire

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