



**Guidance Notes and Conditions for Hackney  
Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Owners,  
Operators and Drivers**

**August 2015**

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# **Guidance Notes and Conditions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Owners, Operators, Drivers August 2015**

## **1. General**

1.1 The legislation relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing is contained in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, as amended by the Transport Act 1985. This legislation applies throughout the whole of Bracknell Forest Borough.

1.2 In these Guidelines, the following abbreviations have been used:

TPCA	-	The Town Police Clauses Act 1847
LG(MP)A	-	The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (Part II)
TA	-	The Transport Act 1985
RTA	-	The Road Traffic Act 1991
DDA	-	Disability Discrimination Act 1995
BF(LC)	-	Bracknell Forest Licence Condition
BF(G)	-	Bracknell Forest Guidance

1.3 These notes are issued to define and offer guidance on the legislation in relation to the provision of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles within the Borough of Bracknell Forest. Any requirements stated as BF(LC) must be regarded as conditions of the relevant licence.

### **Public Records**

1.4 Information held by the Council is Data Protected, however there is a requirement for a 'Public Register' to be kept available for the free public inspection of licences granted. This should only give information in respect of:

## Hackney Carriage Vehicles:

Proprietor's name

Registration and licence number

Date and period for which licence granted

Offences committed by proprietor

Offences committed by driver

## Private Hire Drivers:

Name

Date and period for which licence is granted

Licence number

## **Enforcement Policy**

1.5 The purpose of this Policy is to help your business comply with legislation in a manner that is equitable and without placing an unreasonable burden on anyone. The 4 guiding principles enshrined in this Policy are as follows:

- Fairness: to ensure a fair and even-handed approach.
- Proportionality: to ensure that action taken relates directly to the actual or potential risk to health, safety, the environment, or economic disadvantage to the consumer or business.
- Transparency: to ensure that the reasons for taking any form of enforcement action are understood by those having to comply, and that clear distinctions are made between legal requirements and advice or guidance.
- Objectivity: to ensure that decisions are not influenced by the gender, ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs or sexual preferences of the offender, victim or witnesses. Sensitive consideration will be given where persons involved are children, elderly, infirm or suffering from a mental disorder.

1.6 A copy of the Enforcement Policy is available on request from the Reception at Time Square or at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk).

## **2. Types of Licence**

Hackney Carriage Vehicle

Private Hire Vehicle

Home-to-School Vehicle

Dual Driver - licensed to drive both Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles

Private Hire Driver

Home-to-School Driver

Chauffeur Driver

Private Hire Operator

2.1 Please note that although reminders are sent, it is the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that a renewal application is submitted at least one month prior to the expiry of the licence.

2.2 If a driver's licence lapses for a period exceeding 6 months then a full new application will be required.

## **3. Fees**

3.1 Alterations to vehicle and operator fees are required to be advertised by notice in a local newspaper.

*LG(MP)A s70 (3)*

3.2 The notice will be displayed in the Council's office for at least 28 days (generally during October to February) to allow for any objections to be made. These fees will apply to all licences due on or after 1 April. No increase in fees can take place until the notice period has expired. No refunds shall be payable in respect of driver licences which have been granted, as the fee paid covers the cost of administration of the application. Where a vehicle licence or operator licence is surrendered, a partial refund may be payable subject to the deduction of the appropriate refund processing fee.

*BF(G)*

3.3 The Council reviews all fees periodically and the current scale of fees is available on request or at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing). Fees can be paid by cash, cheque, or credit/debit card at Reception or by ringing 01344 352000 for credit/debit card payment only. Online payments can be made at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/onlinepayments>.

*BF(G)*

#### **4. How to Apply**

4.1 Details are available from the Customer Service Centre at Time Square. Information and forms are also available at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing).

*BF(G)*

4.2 Faxed copies and photocopies of documentation such as DVLA licences will not be accepted.

*BF(G)*

#### **5. Driver Licence - Requirements**

5.1 All new applicants will be required to complete an application for an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (previously known as the CRB).

*LG(MP)A s59*

5.2 Only DBS enhanced disclosures with Bracknell Forest Council as the registered body will be accepted.

*DBS Code of Practice*

5.3 Any DBS enhanced disclosure presented at time of application which is more than 12 months from date of issue will not be accepted. If a disclosure was issued more than 3 months but less than 12 months prior to the date of application, the applicant will be required to sign a declaration regarding convictions or pending cases since the issue of the disclosure.

*BF(LC)*

5.4 Existing drivers will be required to submit a new DBS disclosure application every 3 years or as required by the Licensing Section. There is a fee to be paid for checks made by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

*BF(LC)*

5.5 All licensed drivers are required to report details of **any** convictions, cautions or fixed penalty fines imposed within 28 days of the conviction, caution or fixed penalty. Details should be entered on the 'Notification of Conviction, Caution or Fixed Penalty' which is available at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing) and by hard copy on request.

*BF(LC)*

5.6 All applicants who do not hold a UK passport and have not been resident in the UK for the previous 5 years are required to obtain a certificate of good conduct or equivalent from their relevant Embassy or High Commission.

*BF(LC)*

5.7 Applicants must have held a full DVLA/EU/EEA driving licence for at least 1 year prior to application. Driving licences (originals only, photocopies will not be accepted) must be produced at the time of each application.

*BF(LC)*

5.8 All new drivers will be required to provide a DVLA check code so the Council can verify their driving licence details. This check will be required to be provided on each application form and at any other time on request by the Licensing Team.

*BF(LC)*

5.9 Section 57(2a) requires applicants to produce a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner to



the effect that they are physically fit to be the driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle.

*LG(MP)A s57(2a)*

5.10 A medical certificate on the prescribed BFBC form must be supplied with the first application. On attaining the ages of 50 years, 55 years, 60 years and 65 years of age, and thereafter at yearly intervals a further certificate must be supplied and at any other time that the Council's Medical Adviser shall direct. The DVLA Group 2 Medical Standards apply. In the case of insulin-treated diabetics, the DVLA Group 2 Standards for drivers of category C1 vehicles apply. Further details are available on request from the Licensing Section.

*BF(LC)*

5.11 A medical will only be valid for the application process for a period of 12 months from its date of issue. Should an application not be completed within that period of time, a new medical declaration must be obtained.

*BF(LC)*

5.12 All licensed drivers are required to notify the Licensing Section in writing within 7 days of any medical condition which may impact on their fitness to drive a vehicle. The Council may require the driver to undergo a medical to ensure that they are medically fit to drive.

*BF(LC)*

5.13 All new applicants for driver licences must take and pass the Driving Standards Agency practical test specifically designed for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers. Applicants for home to school, chauffeur and private hire driver licences must take and pass the 'Private Hire Saloon' test; and applicants for dual driver licences must take and pass **both** the 'Hackney Saloon' and 'Wheelchair Exercise' tests.

*BF(LC)*

5.14 All new licensed drivers are required to attend a First Aid Course run by the Council, unless they can provide proof that they have passed a recognised First Aid course within the last five years.

*BF(LC)*

5.15 All licensed drivers are required to attend a First Aid course five years after the date of their initial course, or when their current certificate expires.

*BF(LC)*

5.16 Where a driver fails to attend a First Aid course without reasonable excuse, their licence will be suspended until the course is attended. Failure to attend a booked course will mean a further fee is required to be paid to make a new booking.

*BF(LC)*

5.17 All licensed drivers are required to wear their driver's badge in a prominent position and manner so that it is plainly and distinctly visible.

*LG(MP)A s54*

5.18 A driver may display the badge within the vehicle in a prominent position and manner so that it is plainly and distinctly visible.

*BF(G)*

5.19 Any change of details (name or address) must be notified to the Licensing Section within 7 days using the appropriate form, which is available from Reception.

*TPCA s44*

5.20 Licensed drivers may not initiate any dialogue of a sexual nature with a passenger. Licensed drivers are not permitted to have sexual contact, even with consent, with a passenger whilst on duty or in a licensed vehicle.

*BF(LC)*

## 6. Knowledge Test

6.1 All new drivers will be required to take and pass a written knowledge test. Chauffeur driver and Home to School driver applicants will be exempt from the geographical section of the knowledge test only.

*LG(MP)A s51*

6.2 All drivers will be tested on the laws relating to the licence that they have applied for, the conditions laid down in the Guidance Book, and their geographical knowledge of locations in the area. In addition, Hackney Carriage drivers will be given an oral test of specific routes to destinations in the Borough. If the applicant fails the test, they may re-take it but will be charged for any subsequent test. A pass mark of 80% applies to all sections.

*BF(LC)*

6.3 Any driver who may require assistance in reading or understanding the test should notify the invigilator at the beginning of the test.

*BF(G)*

## 7. Driving Disqualifications

7.1 Where any applicant for a **new** licence has been disqualified from driving (whether for a single offence or under “totting up”), a licence will not be granted until the applicant has (since the period of disqualification has ended) held a full driving licence for a continuous period of 2 years (3 years for a conviction involving alcohol or drugs and 5 years for more than one conviction or after completion of treatment for alcoholism or drugs).

*BF(LC)*

7.2 Where any licensed driver is disqualified from driving under “totting up”, providing the period of disqualification does not exceed 12 months, upon the

restoration of the applicant's driving licence, the Council will re-issue a dual or private hire driver's licence. In the event of the applicant being convicted of any further endorsable offence or issued with any confirmed warning within a period of 12 months, the Council may take action to revoke or suspend the licence.

*BF(LC)*

7.3 Where a conviction is in relation to driving whilst over the legal limit of alcohol or has resulted in a disqualification of 12 months or more, the Council will refuse to issue a licence for a period of up to 3 years from date of restoration of DVLA driving licence.

*BF(LC)*

7.4 Where any licensed driver is disqualified from driving for any such reason, he/she shall immediately return his driver's licence and badge to the Council.

*LG(MP)A s61(2)*

## **8. Unauthorised Drivers**

8.1 It is an offence to allow an unlicensed driver to drive a Hackney Carriage or a Private Hire vehicle. A licensed vehicle is licensed for 365 days a year and can only be driven by licensed drivers at all times.

*LG(MP)A s46*

## 9. Vehicle Licence - Requirements

9.1 All vehicles must be passed as fit by a Vehicle Inspector at an authorised garage.

*LG(MP)A s68*

9.2 Vehicles submitted for inspection **must** be in a clean condition throughout including the underside and engine compartments. The authorised garage has the right to refuse inspection if they are of the opinion the vehicle is not in a clean condition. In such circumstances the vehicle will require a new inspection appointment which may necessitate a new inspection fee.

*BF(LC)*

9.3 The vehicle should be maintained in a clean and comfortable condition at all times.

*BF(LC)*

9.4 Licensed vehicles are smokefree at all times.

*Smoke-free Regulations 2007*

9.5 A vehicle may only be licensed by one local authority at any given time.

*BF(G)*

## 10. Age of Vehicle

10.1 A vehicle submitted for initial licensing must be less than 5 years old or, if wheelchair accessible, less than 4 years old from date of first registration.

The maximum age of a vehicle that may continue to be licensed is 8 years from date of first registration for all types of private hire vehicle, and 10 years for hackney carriages.

*LG(MP)A s47 and 48*

*BF(LC)*

10.2 A prestige vehicle (as defined in Appendix G) may be submitted for initial licensing if it is less than 9 years old provided that it meets the “exceptional condition” criteria detailed in Appendix G and has travelled less than 150,000 miles.

*LG(MP)A s48  
BF(LC)*

10.3 In cases where a vehicle has done an abnormally low mileage and is in exceptional condition, it may, on application, be granted an extension on the age limit. Such an extension may be subject to certain conditions. For more details please see Appendix G.

*BF(LC)*

10.4 Any such application must be received in writing by the Licensing Section at least 3 months prior to the date upon which the vehicle becomes 8 years old.

*BF(G)*

10.5 The vehicle shall be subjected to a visual inspection by the Licensing Section. It is the responsibility of the owner to submit the vehicle on the date at the place as arranged.

*BF(LC)*

10.6 The vehicle owner will receive a decision in writing within 10 working days after the inspection.

*BF(G)*

## **11. Type of Vehicle**

11.1 All replacement Hackney Carriages must be wheelchair accessible. Vehicles with twin telescopic wheelchair ramps must also have a winch fitted to assist entry/exit.

*LG(MP)A s47  
BF(LC)*

11.2 All Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles must have a national or single type approval certificate incorporating the modification.

*BF(LC)*

11.3 Private Hire Vehicles shall have a minimum of four doors and be capable of carrying at least 4 passengers.

*LG(MP)A s48*

*BF(LC)*

11.4 A Private Hire vehicle must not be of such design or appearance as to lead any person to believe it is a Hackney Carriage.

*LG(MP)A s48*

11.5 From 1 April 2014, new vehicle licences shall only be issued for vehicles which fall within the following Euro NCAP categories:

- (i) Large family
- (ii) Executive
- (iii) Small MPV (for 4 passengers only)
- (iv) Large MPV
- (v) Large Off-Road 4x4

*BF(LC)*

Any vehicles which do not fall within the appropriate Euro NCAP may be considered for licensing on a case by case basis. In particular it is envisaged that exceptions could be made for 'green' vehicles such as the Toyota Prius. However these vehicles will only be licensed for an appropriate number of passengers depending on the number of seats and internal dimensions of the vehicle, with a minimum seat width and depth of 16" (41cm) per passenger. It is recommended that prior to purchasing any such vehicle, advice be sought from the Licensing Team.

11.6 Where the vehicle is an estate car, a guard must be fitted to prevent luggage entering the passenger compartment in an emergency stop. Roof racks may only be used when excess luggage is to be carried. Please see section 15 regarding the use of trailers.

*BF(LC)*

11.7 A vehicle can only be licensed to carry up to a maximum of 8 passengers. Any licence issued relates to a number of persons to be carried regardless of weight, age or size, and to exceed that number is an offence.

*LG(MP)A s30*

11.8 Some purpose-built vehicles can carry up to 8 passengers including those seated in wheelchairs. In this case, each seat and person seated in a wheelchair count in respect of seating capacity.

*LG(MP)A s80*

11.9 A stretched limousine vehicle modified and issued with a certificate under either the

- (i) Lincoln Qualified Vehicle Modifier Scheme or
- (ii) Cadillac Master Coachbuilder Scheme

would be acceptable for presentation and licensing as a Private Hire vehicle.

*BF(G)*

11.10 All licensed vehicles (except for private hire vehicles with a dispensation) must meet the following requirements:

- (i) Light transmitted through the **windscreen** must be at least 75%
- (ii) **All other windows (both front and rear)** must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted



Setting an approved level of tint on the rear passenger windows of licensed vehicles ensures that applicants have no doubt as to what vehicles can be purchased as well as maintaining high safety standards. Many vehicles are used for the carriage of children and vulnerable persons and excessively tinted windows may lead to activities taking place in the vehicle not being visible to persons outside, which poses a risk to both passengers and drivers, and vulnerable passengers such as lone females will feel safer in a vehicle where they can be seen. Officers need to be able to ensure the maximum number of passengers is not being exceeded. In addition, excessively tinted glass may restrict the vision of the driver, especially in dark conditions, which may prevent the driver from seeing other road users or pedestrians.

*BF(LC)*

11.11 Where currently licensed vehicles as from 11 October 2013 have factory tinted/privacy glass fitted and are able to provide documentary evidence of this, they will remain licensed until the vehicle reaches the maximum licensable age in accordance with the existing age of vehicle policy.

*BF(LC)*

11.12 Where currently licensed vehicles as from 11 October 2013 have had a tinted film fitted to the vehicle (i.e. not factory fitted at time of manufacture), they will be required to have the film removed prior to the next vehicle inspection. Failure to do so will result in the vehicle failing the inspection.

*BF(LC)*

## **12. Carriage of Goods or Packages**

12.1 The driver of a vehicle is under a duty of care to the passengers to ensure that they travel safely. The carriage of goods or packages in the interior of the vehicle

may put passengers and drivers at risk of injury if the items are not properly secured. Ideally they should be located in an area outside the passenger compartment, e.g. the boot, or in vehicles with a separate driver area, in the footwell adjacent to the driver. If goods are carried in the passenger compartment and a passenger suffers harm due to the presence of the goods, the driver may be liable to pay damages to the passenger. Drivers are strongly advised to check with their insurance company, to avoid carrying any loose goods in the passenger compartment, and to explain clearly to passengers the risk they face in having such goods in the compartment.

*BF(G)*

### **13. Insurance and MOT Certificate**

13.1 It is the responsibility of the owner of the vehicle to ensure that a current insurance certificate and MOT certificate are in place for a licensed vehicle.

*LG(MP)A s57*

13.2 Insurance cover must be for a minimum period of four weeks. A cover note or certificate of insurance must be produced to the Licensing Section prior to or on the day of expiry of the previous certificate.

*BF(LC)*

13.3 Faxed copies will not be accepted; original certificates must be produced. Photocopies of documentation can only be made by Bracknell Forest Council staff. Electronic copies may be accepted, provided the Licensing team can verify the information provided.

*BF(G)*

13.4 For any vehicles insured under a fleet policy or temporary cover note, and any temporary replacement vehicles, the vehicle licence holder must ensure that a copy of the vehicle insurance cover note or certificate is

retained in the vehicle at all times and made available on demand.

*BF(LC)*

13.5 A valid MOT certificate must be submitted with each application for a vehicle licence, if required. The MOT certificate must be made available for inspection upon request by an authorised officer. Please note that the vehicle inspections carried out by the authorised garages include the elements of an MOT.

*BF(LC)*

## **14. Vehicle Inspection**

14.1 Vehicles up to 5 years old from the date of first registration at DVLA will be subject to an annual inspection. Once a licensed vehicle reaches 5 years old from date of first registration, it will require an inspection within the next 6 months, and will be subject to 6-monthly inspections thereafter.

*BF(LC)*

14.2 For a vehicle solely engaged in home/school transport, once the vehicle reaches 5 years old from date of first registration, it will require an inspection within the next 6 months and will be subject to 6-monthly inspections thereafter, unless it is demonstrated that the vehicle is covering less than 8000 miles per year.

*BF(LC)*

14.3 The owner of the vehicle is responsible for ensuring that inspections are carried out as and when required. Details of the authorised garages are available on request or at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing).

*LG(MP)A s68*

*BF(LC)*

14.4 The vehicle owner will be advised in writing one month prior to the month in which an inspection is due. It is then the responsibility of the owner to make the necessary arrangements directly with one of the authorised garages to ensure the inspection is carried out. If an inspection is not carried out by the due date, the licence will be suspended until such a test has been passed.

*BF(LC)*

14.5 Any failure for an MOT matter will be an immediate failure. Non-MOT matters and MOT advisories will be reported to the Licensing Officer who will contact the licence holder and decide on a course of action on a case by case basis.

*BF(LC)*

14.6 It is a requirement that a spare wheel/wheel-changing equipment must be carried at all times, unless all 4 wheels are using 'run flat' tyres which have been approved by an authorised officer of the Council.

*BF(G)*

## **15. Trailers**

15.1 Trailers can only be used in connection with Private Hire bookings and cannot be used when plying for hire on a rank.

*LG(MP)A s48*

*BF(LC)*

15.2 Trailers must comply with the following standards:

- Unbraked trailers shall be less than 750kg gross weight.
- Trailers over 750kg gross weight shall be braked acting on at least two road wheels.
- The towing vehicle must have a kerb weight at least twice the gross weight of the trailer.

- A suitable lid or other approved means of enclosure shall be fitted to secure the contents within the trailer whenever in use.
- The maximum permissible length of the trailer shall be 7 metres including the drawbar and coupling.
- The width of the trailer shall not be greater than the towing vehicle subject to no trailer being wider than 2.3 metres.
- The maximum length for braked twin axle trailers is 5.54 metres.
- The trailer must at all times comply with all Road Traffic legislation requirements in particular those as laid down in the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.
- The vehicle insurance must reflect cover for towing a trailer.
- Trailers must not be left unattended anywhere on the highway.
- The speed restrictions applicable to trailers must be observed at all times.

*LG(MP)A s48  
BF(LC)*

## **16. Equipment**

16.1 Every licensed vehicle shall be fitted with a 1kg BC dry powder type fire extinguisher, which must be kept full and ready for immediate use. It should be securely restrained to prevent damage or accidental discharge and must be marked in permanent ink with the vehicle licence plate number. The extinguisher must comply with BSEN3 (European Standard). It must be serviced in accordance with BS5306 on an annual basis, and a record kept for inspection by authorised officers.

*LG(MP)A s48(2)  
BF(LC)*

16.2 Every licensed vehicle shall carry a first aid kit in such a position as to be readily visible and available for immediate use in an emergency. The First Aid kit shall at a minimum contain the recommended contents for a travelling worker as suggested in the HSE Guidance leaflet L74 “First Aid at Work”:

- HSE leaflet “ Basic Advice on first aid at work”
- 20 individually wrapped sterile plasters (assorted sizes)
- 2 sterile eye pads
- 6 medium and 2 large individually wrapped unmedicated wound dressings
- 4 individually wrapped triangular bandages (preferably sterile)
- 6 safety pins
- 1 pair of disposable gloves.

It is advised not to include ointments or painkillers in the first aid kit.

*LG(MP)A s48(2)  
BF(LC) & BF(G)*

16.3 Every licensed vehicle shall carry a replacement bulb kit appropriate to the vehicle.

*BF(LC)*

## **17. Use of Mobile Phones and Radios**

17.1 Only one two-way radio with a single frequency may be operational at any one time and this shall be an approved radio used exclusively for the hackney carriage/private hire trade and properly licensed with an effective radio power (ERP) **NOT** exceeding 25 watts.

*Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949  
BF(LC)*

17.2 A hand-held mobile phone or radio handset must not be used whilst the vehicle is in motion. It is a criminal

offence to use a hand-held mobile phone whilst driving. A driver can also be prosecuted for using a hands-free device if they are not in proper control of their vehicle. Drivers must not stop on the hard shoulder of a motorway to answer or make a call unless it is to dial 999.

*RTA*

## **18. Signs**

18.1 All licensed vehicles must display 'No Smoking' signs in each compartment.

*Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007*

18.2 Private hire vehicles must not display a roof sign.

*BF(LC)*

18.3 Private hire vehicles may display signs on the front doors, provided the sign does not exceed 50cm length and 25cm height, and contains the operator name and telephone number and the words 'Advance Bookings Only'. No other words, devices or logos are permitted.

*LG(MP)A s48(2)*

*BF(LC)*

18.4 The sign may be attached by means of adhesive transfer or magnetic catches, and must be submitted for approval by the Licensing Section before being used.

*BF(LC)*

18.5 Hackney Carriages must display a roof sign with the word "TAXI", which **must** be illuminated when plying for hire. Door signs may be displayed complying with the conditions listed above, but excluding the words "Advance Bookings Only". The TAXI roof sign may only be removed with permission of the Council or when working outside the Borough.

*BF(LC)*

*LG(MP)A s47(2)*

18.6 All hackney carriages which display liveried advertising on the vehicle must apply for approval to ensure the advertisement meets the criteria detailed in Appendix F. A fee is payable for this application, and an inspection of the vehicle will be required.

*BF(LC)*

## **19. Identification Plates/Screen Stickers/Badges**

19.1 Licence plates must be securely fixed to the rear of the vehicle either by directly fixing it to the bumper or on a secure bracket. The screen sticker must be displayed in the lower nearside corner of the front windscreen. It is an offence not to exhibit the licence plate and screen sticker.

*TPCA s51*

*LG(MP)A s48(6)*

*BF(LC)*

19.2 The vehicle licence must be carried within the vehicle and be available for inspection by an authorised officer.

*BF(LC)*

## **20. Private Hire Vehicle Dispensation**

20.1 The Council may grant a dispensation to certain private hire vehicles which are engaged **solely** in chauffeur/corporate/executive work. No payments should be made directly to the driver of such vehicles.

*BF(LC)*

20.2 A licence plate will not be required to be fixed to the vehicle; however, the licence plate and dispensation certificate must be carried at all times.

*LG(MP)A s75(3)*



20.3 From 1 April 2014, new dispensations shall only be issued to vehicles of the following Euro NCAP categories:

- (i) Executive
- (ii) Large Off Road 4x4

Any vehicles which do not fall within these categories will be considered for dispensation on a case by case basis, in particular those vehicles meeting the definition of a 'prestige vehicle' as defined in Appendix G. It is recommended that prior to purchasing any such vehicle advice be sought from the Licensing Team.

*BF(LC)*  
*LG(MP)A s48(1ai)*

20.4 The screen sticker must still be displayed in the front windscreen at all times. Failure to comply will result in the loss of the dispensation.

*LG(MP)A s48(2)*  
*BF(LC)*

## **21. Restricted Private Hire Licence Provisions**

21.1 All vehicles and drivers operating for hire or reward must be licensed by the local authority.

*LG(MP)A s46(1a)*

21.2 For drivers and vehicles engaged **solely** in the transport of children from home to school, a specific Home to School transport licence is available.

*BF(G)*

21.3 For drivers of private hire vehicles which are engaged **solely** in chauffeur/corporate/executive work **and** have a dispensation issued by the Council, a specific Chauffeur driver licence is available.

*BF(G)*

21.3 The Council has discretion to allow vehicles that do not conform to certain private hire vehicle requirements to be licensed as Home to School transport vehicles.

*LG(MP)A s48  
BF(G)*

21.4 Drivers and vehicles must comply with all other requirements as stated in this document.

*BF(LC)*

## **22. Transfer of Vehicles to New Owners**

22.1 The licence is issued in respect of a specific vehicle, and cannot be transferred to another vehicle without notice to the Council.

*LG(MP)A s49(2)*

22.2 Any owner transferring a licensed vehicle to a new owner must inform the Licensing Section in writing within 14 days of the transfer.

*LG(MP)A s49(1)*

22.3 It is the responsibility of the new owner to ensure that a transfer application is made, and to provide documentation as required for the issue of a new licence.

*LG(MP)A s49(2)*

## **23. Accidents**

23.1 If a licensed vehicle is involved in an accident, even if there is only minor damage to the vehicle, the proprietor must inform the Licensing Section in writing within **72 hours** to allow the vehicle to be inspected and the damage assessed.

*LG(MP)A s50(3)  
BF(LC)*

23.2 A vehicle licence will be suspended where major works are required. These repairs must be completed

before the expiration of 2 months otherwise, by virtue of Section 68 of the 1976 Act, the vehicle licence shall be deemed to have been revoked.

*LG(MP)A s68*

23.3 With regard to minor damage, repairs should be effected within a period of 28 days of the incident otherwise the vehicle licence will be suspended until repairs have been completed to the satisfaction of the Licensing Officer.

*BF(LC)*

23.4 A temporary replacement vehicle will generally be required to be of a similar specification and standard as the vehicle it is replacing.

*BF(G)*

23.5 A temporary replacement vehicle will only be licensed under the original vehicle licence for a maximum of 2 months, to allow for repairs to be carried out on the original vehicle as mentioned previously in this section. The usual application process applies.

*BF(LC)*

## **24. Taximeter**

24.1 Licensed vehicles equipped with a taximeter of approved design (compulsory for a Hackney Carriage, but optional for a Private Hire Vehicle) must be submitted for a meter test before operating in the Borough. Meters will be subject to further tests as and when required by the Council.

*BF(LC)*

24.2 Meters are tested over the “measured mile” by the Licensing Officer. The meter **must not** incorporate any other licensing authority’s fare structure.

*BF(G)*

24.3 If a meter has to be re-submitted for testing, a charge will be made.

*BF(G)*

24.4 Where a meter is fitted to **any** licensed vehicle, that meter must be used for the charging of any journeys that start and finish within the Borough. A current tariff card must be displayed within the vehicle.

*BF(LC)*

24.5 All licensed vehicles must have a programmed calendar date meter fitted. It must not be possible to change the tariff by manual operation.

*BF(LC)*

## **25. Authorised Table of Fares**

25.1 Under Section 65(1) 'a district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well as for time and distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section'.

*LG(MP)A s65(1)*

25.2 In the case of journeys ending outside the Borough where a prior agreement has been reached with the hirer, a lesser fare may be charged. Any fares charged **MUST NOT** be higher than that which would have been authorised in the Fares Table.

*LG(MP)A s66*

25.3 If a Hackney Carriage is used under a contract for private hire, it must not charge more than the fixed rate in the authorised fare table.

*LG(MP)A s67*

25.4 A charge is to be calculated from the point in the controlled district where the hirer commences his/her journey.

*LG(MP)A s67*

25.5 Any proposed variation to Hackney Carriage fares will be advertised by a notice published in a local newspaper, stating the proposed fares or variation of the fares. The notice will specify a date not less than 28 days from the date of the notice to allow any objections to be lodged.

*LG(MP)A s65(2a)*

25.6 A copy of the notice will also be available at the Council offices for inspection, free of charge during council opening times.

*LG(MP)A s65(2b)*

25.7 If no objections have been received when the 28 days have expired, the new fares will take effect.

*LG(MP)A s65(3)*

25.8 If objections are made and not then withdrawn, the Licensing and Safety Committee will consider the objections before setting the fare.

*LG(MP)A s65(3)*

## **26. Plying for Hire – Hackney Carriages**

26.1 The penalty for plying for hire without a Hackney Carriage licence applies to both the owner and person in charge of the vehicle.

*TPCA s45*

26.2 “Plying for Hire” means either standing at a duly authorised rank in a street, railway station or on railway premises, on private property or driving within the Borough, exhibiting to the public that the vehicle is

available for hire. Only licensed Hackney Carriages may “ply for hire”.

*TPCA s45*

## **27. Guide and Assistance Dogs**

27.1 It is an offence for a driver to refuse to carry guide and assistance dogs unless the driver has a medical exemption certificate. These certificates are issued by the Council and details upon how to apply are available on request from the Licensing Section. A fee is payable for the application.

*DDA s37(4)*

27.2 Drivers, in making an application for an exemption, will need to provide medical evidence to support it.

*DDA s37 (5)*

27.3 This must be provided by a medical practitioner; we would normally expect this to be the applicant’s GP. If the exemption is being applied for on the grounds of a chronic phobia to dogs, the report must be provided by a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist.

*BF(LC)*

27.4 A driver may also commit an offence if they:

- do not accept bookings made by or on behalf of a disabled person who is accompanied by a guide, hearing or other assistance dog;
- make an additional charge for the carrying of the dog.

*DDA s37*

## **28. Carrying Disabled Passengers**

28.1 Under Section 36 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, a wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage must carry a wheelchair user if requested to do so. Assistance as may reasonably be required should be provided at no extra charge. Failure to comply with this section will make the driver, on summary conviction, liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 (£1000) on the standard scale.

*DDA 1995 s36*

28.2 All rear access wheelchair-accessible vehicles are to only pick up and set down wheelchair users in a location where it is safe to do so.

*BF(G)*

## **29. Supervision**

29.1 An authorised Officer of the Council has the power at all reasonable times to inspect and test for fitness any vehicle licensed by the Council or any taximeter fitted in a licensed vehicle. If the officer is not satisfied as to the fitness of the vehicle or as to the accuracy of the taximeter, the proprietor or driver will be required to make the vehicle or taximeter available for further inspection and testing and the vehicle licence may be suspended until such time as the officer is satisfied as to its fitness.

*LG(MP)A s68*

29.2 If the vehicle is not made fit within 2 months, the vehicle licence will be automatically revoked.

*LG(MP)A s68*

29.3 Vehicles and drivers may be subject to spot checks carried out by authorised Officers.

*LG(MP)A s68*

29.4 It is an offence to wilfully obstruct an authorised Officer or fail to give such assistance or information as may be required or to comply with any reasonable requirement. It is also an offence to give false information.  
*LG(MP)A s73(1)*

### **30. Operator Licences**

30.1 An Operator Licence is required for the purpose of making provision for the invitation or acceptance of bookings for a private hire vehicle.

*LG(MP)A s55*

30.2 An operator can only use vehicles and drivers licensed by the same authority as the operator.

*LG(MP)A s46*

30.3 All bookings must be made through an operator with a fixed base holding the required operator licence (not through a mobile phone number).

*LG(MP)A s55  
BF(LC)*

30.4 Under health and safety legislation, employer's liability insurance is required. Any premises that provide access to members of the public should also be covered by public liability insurance. As a rule of thumb, if the operator supplies the tools of the trade, for example the supply of a vehicle to a driver, or in the case of office-based personnel the radio equipment, they have a liability. The operator is responsible for ensuring that adequate liability insurance is in place. Insurance documentation should be available for inspection at any reasonable time by an authorised Officer.

*LG(MP)A s55  
BF(LC)*



30.5 Only trading or company name(s) that are written on the operator licence, or other trading name approved by the Council in writing, shall be used for trading in the Borough of Bracknell Forest.

*BF(G)*

30.6 All licensed operators are required to report details of **any** convictions, cautions or fixed penalty fines imposed within 28 days of the conviction, caution or fixed penalty. Details should be entered on the 'Notification of Conviction, Caution or Fixed Penalty' which is available at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing) and by hard copy on request.

*BF(LC)*

30.7 The operator shall not knowingly or recklessly employ anyone as a controller to receive bookings and despatch vehicles, who has been deemed 'not fit and proper', by any local authority, to hold a private hire operator, private hire driver or dual/hackney carriage driver's licence, unless approved by the Council.

*BF(LC)*

30.8 If an operator wishes to move to a new base, they should ensure the appropriate planning permission is in place and submit an application for a new operator licence for the new address. If the new licence is granted, the old licence may then be surrendered for a pro-rata refund.

*BF(G)*

## **31. Responsibility of Proprietor or Operator**

31.1 The Council will hold the owner or proprietor of a Hackney Carriage or the owner or operator of a Private Hire vehicle responsible for the general condition and roadworthiness of the vehicle(s), and for ensuring that drivers are familiar with all conditions, legislation and byelaws regulating the operation of vehicles.

*BF(G)*

31.2 In certain instances therefore the proprietor or operator may be subject to enforcement action as a result of an offence committed by the driver of their vehicle.

*LG(MP)A s50*

31.3 The Council will take into account the circumstances of each offence and how far the proprietor has carried out their obligations in deciding whether to take any action against the proprietor.

*BF(G)*

31.4 The records required to be kept by the operator shall be kept in a manner, whether written or on a computer, which enables them to be examined or audited. The operator shall enter or cause to be entered therein, before the commencement of each journey, the following particulars of every booking of a private hire vehicle invited or accepted by him:

- a) Time and date of booking
- b) Name of the hirer
- c) How the booking was made (e.g. telephone)
- d) Price quoted for booking
- e) Time of pick-up
- f) Point of pick-up
- g) Destination
- h) Time at which a driver was allocated to the booking

- i) Driver's badge number or call sign of the vehicle allocated to the booking
- j) Remarks (including full details of any sub-contract).

*LG(MP)A s56(2)*

*BF(LC)*

31.5 All records kept by the operator shall be preserved for a period of not less than 6 months following the date of the last entry.

*BF(LC)*

31.6 The operator shall at all reasonable times provide authorised officers of the Council and the Police with any information necessary for the purpose of checking booking records. Whenever the company office is open for accepting bookings, the operator shall ensure that there is an authorised member of staff present who has received suitable and sufficient training and instruction concerning the provision of information required, including the ability to satisfactorily and competently operate any computer system used for the purpose.

*BF(LC)*

31.7 The operator shall also keep the following records of the drivers and vehicles operated by him, which should be kept available at the base for inspection by an authorised officer or supplied to an authorised officer upon reasonable request:

- a) List of owner and all drivers of each licensed vehicle
- b) Copy of vehicle licence for all vehicles operated
- c) Copy of driver licence for all drivers operated
- d) Copy of insurance/inspection/MOT/DVLA photocard
- e) List of all radio call signs used with names of drivers.

*BF(LC)*

31.8 Any changes in drivers or vehicles shall be notified to the Licensing Team in writing within 48 hours.

*LG(MP)A s56 (3)*  
*BF(LC)*

31.9 The operator shall provide a prompt efficient and reliable service to members of the public at all reasonable times and for this purpose shall in particular:

- Ensure that when a private hire vehicle has been hired to be in attendance at an appointed time and place, the vehicle shall (unless delayed or prevented by sufficient cause) punctually attend at that appointed time and place. Where possible, the operator should contact the customer and inform them of any delay.
- Keep clean, adequately heated, ventilated and lit any premises which the operator provides and to which the public has access whether for the purpose of booking or waiting, and ensure that any waiting area provided by the operator has adequate seating facilities.
- Ensure that any telephone facilities and radio equipment provided are maintained in a sound condition and that any defects are repaired promptly.
- The use of Citizen Band Radio transmitter/ receiver will not be permitted in a licensed vehicle.

*LG(MP)A s55(3)*  
*BF(G)*

## **32. Suspension, Revocation or Refusal of Licences**

32.1 Any contravention will be dealt with in accordance with the Enforcement Policy (see Appendix D).

*BF(G)*

## Vehicle Licences

32.2 The Council may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a vehicle licence on any of the following grounds:

- The licensed vehicle is unfit for use as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle

*LG(MP)A s60*

- Any offence under, or non-compliance with, the provisions of the 1847 or 1976 Acts by the proprietor, operator or driver.

*TPCA  
LG(MP)A s60*

- Any other reasonable cause.

*LG(MP)A s60*

## Driver Licences

32.3 The Council may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a driver's licence on any of the following grounds:

- That he/she has since the granting of the licence:
  - been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, indecency, violence, or driving with excess alcohol;
  - been convicted of an offence under or has failed to comply with the provisions of the 1847, 1976 and 1991 Acts as amended; or
  - any other reasonable cause.

*LG(MP)A s61*

## Operator Licences

32.4 The Council may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew an operator's licence on any of the following grounds:

- any offence, misconduct under, or non-compliance with, the provisions of Part II of the 1976 Act as amended;
- any material change since the licence was granted in any of the circumstances of the operator on the basis of which the licence was granted; or
- any other reasonable cause.

*LG(MP)A s62*

### **33. Appeals Procedure**

33.1 Where a new or renewal licence application is refused, the applicant has a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court, or to the Crown Court for Hackney Carriage vehicle licence applications. Where an existing licence is suspended or revoked, the licence holder has a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court. An appeal must be lodged with either Court within 21 days of notification of the refusal, suspension or revocation.

*LG(MP)A s52*

33.2 The applicant/licence holder may also within 21 days make an application to appeal to the Council's Licensing Appeals and Representations Panel. Upon receipt of an application, the Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection will decide if the matter is to be referred to the Panel. If referred, the applicant will be informed in writing of the date and time, and will receive information on their rights and the process of the hearing.

*BF(G)*

## **34. Return of Licences**

### Vehicle Licence

34.1 On the suspension, revocation or expiry of a vehicle licence, the proprietor must return the licence plate and screen sticker to the Council within 7 days of receipt of notice. Failure to do so can render the proprietor liable on summary conviction to a fine. Any authorised officer of the Council or a Police Officer shall be entitled to remove and retain the licence plate or screen sticker in such cases.

*LG(MP)A s58*

### Driver's Licence

34.2 On the suspension, revocation or expiry of a driver's licence, the driver must return the badge and licence to the Council on demand. Any authorised Officer of the Council or a Police Officer shall be entitled to retain the licence in such cases.

*LG(MP)A s58*

34.3 The badge, plate and licence remain the property of the Council at all times.

*BF(LC)*

## **35. Offences**

35.1 As well as the suspension or revocation of licences, it may be that the circumstances amount to a criminal offence. In such a case a prosecution for these may also be appropriate.

*LG(MP)A  
TPCA*

## 36. Seat Belts and Child Seats

36.1 Hackney Carriage drivers are exempt by virtue of Regulation 5(h) of the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations 1982, providing they are seeking hire, answering a call for hire or carrying a passenger for hire, and the vehicle is carrying a plate showing it is a licensed Hackney Carriage. A similar exemption applies to a Private Hire Vehicle provided it is being used to carry a passenger for hire.

*Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations 1982*

36.2 Notwithstanding the legal requirements, where vehicles are fitted with a front passenger seat air bag, the driver must be aware of any manufacturer's instructions in relation to the age and height of the person sitting in the front seat. A failure by a driver to take account of those instructions may be regarded as a breach of their duty of care to customers.

*RTA  
BF(G)*

36.3 The law on the use of child car seats is summarised as follows:

	<b>Front seat</b>	<b>Rear seat</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>
<b>Child up to 3 years old</b>	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used.	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used. If a restraint is not available in a licensed taxi/private hire vehicle, the child may travel unrestrained.	<b>Driver</b>



	Front seat	Rear seat	Who is responsible?
<b>Child from 3rd birthday up to 135cm in height (approx 4' 5") (or 12th birthday, whichever they reach first)</b>	Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used.	<b>Where</b> seat belts are fitted, the correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used. The child must use an adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available as follows: - in a licensed taxi or private hire vehicle; or - for a short distance in an unexpected necessity; or - two occupied child restraints prevent fitment of a third. A child 3 years and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat if seat belts are not fitted in the rear.	<b>Driver</b>
<b>Child over 135cm in height (approx 4' 5") or 12 and 13 years old</b>	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available.	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available.	<b>Driver</b>
<b>Passengers aged 14 years old and over</b>	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available.	Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available.	<b>Passenger</b>

## **37. Complaints**

37.1 Complaints received from members of the public regarding the service and conduct of drivers/vehicles and operators will be considered, and where appropriate, investigated by the Licensing Officer.

*BF(G)*

## **38. Service Standards**

38.1 Within 2 clear working days of receipt of all documentation necessary to make a decision upon a licence application, we aim to:

- issue all the necessary documents, badges or plates, and notify you that they are ready for collection; or
- advise you of the reason for a delay or, in some cases, the reason for refusal.

*BF(G)*

38.2 Some applications require us to make enquiries of other agencies and they may take over 4 weeks to supply the necessary information.

*BF(G)*

38.3 When making an application, you are required to provide information and documentation as detailed on the application form. A failure by you to provide this will unnecessarily delay the decision on your application. Certain documents must be provided together at the same time and unless they are received as required, they will be returned to you and the application will be delayed until they are provided as requested.

*BF(G)*

38.4 Information provided on application forms is held on a database and will only be disclosed to other agencies where there is a legal requirement to do so.

*BF(G)*

38.5 Where new licence conditions are being considered, the Council will look to consult the trade. Where conditions are revised in line with new legislation, every effort will be made to advise the trade. Where a new condition is applied to a licence, the licence holder is entitled to appeal to a Magistrates' Court within 21 days of that application of the condition.

*BF(G)*

### **How to contact the department:**

If you have any queries about an application or licensing matter, it is recommended that you contact the Customer Service Centre in person or by phone. In some cases they will be able to assist you, but if not then they will make arrangements for you to speak to a member of the Licensing Team to deal with your enquiry. For a definitive answer on licence requirements you should speak to a Licensing Officer.

**Visit:** Customer Service Centre at Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell. The office is open from 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

**Telephone:** 01344 352000

**Email:** [licence.all@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:licence.all@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

**Write to:** Licensing Section, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, RG12 1JD

**Find us online:** [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/licensing)

## APPENDIX A

### **Guidance on the Relevance of Criminal Records in respect of Applicants for Driver or Operator Licences**

Unless otherwise specified, all applicants must complete a Disclosure and Barring Service application form prior to the grant of a licence and then every three years or as requested by the Licensing Section.

All past convictions will be considered against the following guidelines and other relevant guidance. For the purposes of this document “convictions” include a caution where the offender has formally admitted the offence in writing as required within Home Office circular 016/2008. Examples of the relevance of past convictions in relation to the grant, renewal, suspension and revocation of driver and operator licences are detailed below. It must be stressed that these examples are for guidance only and every case will be judged on its merits, with the overriding principle being that of the protection of the public, both customers and other road users. Where multiple convictions of a similar type have occurred, a minimum period of five years free from conviction may be required.

#### 1. Minor traffic offences

Convictions for minor traffic offences (e.g. obstruction, waiting in a restricted street or speeding) should not prevent a person from proceeding with an application.

However, if sufficient penalty points have been accrued to require a period of disqualification of the applicant’s DVLA driving licence, then a licence may be granted after its restoration, but a warning will be issued as to future conduct.

## 2. Major traffic offences

An isolated conviction for reckless driving or driving without due care and attention etc. will normally merit a warning as to future driving, and advice on the standard expected of licensed drivers. More than one conviction for this type of offence within the last two years should merit a refusal. No further application should be considered until a period of three years from the last conviction has elapsed.

## 3. Intoxication through use of alcohol or illegal drugs

### Offences related to use of motor vehicle

A serious view is taken of convictions of driving or being in charge of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

Where there is a recent conviction for this type of offence, the application will be refused. At least three years should elapse (after the restoration of the DVLA driving licence) before the applicant will be considered for a licence. Applicants may also be required to undergo a special medical examination. If an applicant is found to be an alcoholic or dependant on illegal drugs, or where there is more than one conviction of this type, a period of five years from completion of treatment or restoration of the licence should elapse before a further application is considered.

### Offences not related to use of motor vehicle

An isolated conviction for drunkenness need not debar an applicant from being granted a licence. However, more than one conviction for drunkenness could indicate a medical problem necessitating a special medical examination. In some cases, a warning may be sufficient.

An applicant with a conviction for a drug-related offence will be required to show a period of at least three years free of convictions before an application is entertained, or five years after detoxification treatment if they were dependant on illegal drugs.

#### 4. Indecency offences

Applicants with convictions for indecent exposure, indecent assault, importuning, or any of the more serious sexual offences, will normally be refused.

#### 5. Violence

Any convictions for violence such as grievous bodily harm, wounding or assault, will be refused until at least five years has elapsed from the expiry of any sentence.

#### 6. Dishonesty

Applicants with a single conviction for a minor incident will be refused until there has been one year free from conviction. Applicants with two convictions for minor incidents will be refused until there has been three years free from conviction. Applicants with more than two convictions for minor incidents or one or more convictions for a significant act of dishonesty will be refused until there has been five years free from conviction.

#### Information

In clarification of the above, the recorded date of the court conviction is to be taken as the period to remain free of conviction from, unless a sentence of imprisonment or corrective training exceeding 30 months has been imposed, when the period commences from the date of release from imprisonment.

## APPENDIX B

### Advice for Drivers when dealing with People with Disabilities

Taxis are an important, and sometimes the only means of transportation for many people with disabilities.

It may be that you drive or operate a vehicle designed to make travelling easier for disabled people, but an accessible vehicle is only part of the answer. Your attitude and understanding of the problems that may be faced by people with disabilities is very important.

Disability comes in many forms – not always visible. Never make assumptions, always ask what help (if any) a passenger may need from you. Make sure that you are familiar with any access and safety equipment in your vehicle. Be ready to help, but do not insist on helping. If you are asked to help, listen carefully to the information given, or ask what is the best way to assist.

The following is some basic advice to assist you in giving the best service to your passenger.

#### **Wheelchair Users**

If a passenger is a wheelchair user, you should:

- Leave the passenger in a safe and convenient place which enables them to move away independently.
- Always ask the customer to make sure that the brakes of the wheelchair are on.
- Secure the wheelchair and suggest that the passenger uses the seat belt provided.

- Avoid sudden braking or acceleration.

If you drive a saloon car, you may still be able to take wheelchair users provided that the passenger is able and willing to transfer. In those circumstances, you should ask the passenger what help they require, listen to their response, and act only as advised. Take care when loading the wheelchair into the boot. Wheelchairs can be expensive to repair or replace and without it the passenger may be totally immobile. Some wheelchairs are collapsible and some parts, such as handles and plates may come away easily, so care needs to be taken when folding or loading collapsible wheelchairs.

### **Ambulant Disabled**

Whilst some ambulant disabled may use crutches or sticks, many disabled people who have mobility difficulties will not. People, with arthritis in particular, may be unable to walk using a stick or crutches due to painful upper limbs. If the passenger appears to have walking difficulties, or is frail or elderly, always:

- Offer to fit the additional step if there is one – this reduces the first step and makes it easier to get into vehicles. If in an MPV, ask whether pulling up as close as possible to the kerb would be helpful. For saloon cars this may not be useful because it increases the height the passenger has to drop down to the seat and may make it more difficult for them to get out of the seat at the end of the journey.
- If you have used a swivel seat, make sure it is locked back in position once inside the vehicle.



## Visually Impaired Passengers

If a passenger is blind or partially sighted, ask what assistance they require and always:

- Look out for the “TAXI” sign which may be held out by some visually impaired people in order to hail a cab.
- If you are knowingly collecting a visually impaired passenger from a pre-booked location, knock at the door on arrival – do not remain in the cab and sound your horn.
- If your customer would like to be accompanied to or from the entrance of a building, offer them your arm (gripping just above the elbow will enable them to be guided more easily).
- Tell your passenger whether they are entering a saloon car or purpose-built cab.
- Demonstrate which way the doors open where appropriate.
- If possible, place a visually impaired person’s hand on the open door and indicate the position of the roof.
- Make sure the passenger(s) know which way the vehicle is facing.
- Make sure the passenger(s) are seated and have secured the seat belt (where applicable) before you move off. They may require assistance with the belt.
- Tell passenger(s) if you are taking a different route from that which they might expect, or if there is a hold-up or diversion.

- Tell passenger(s) the fare and count out the change.
- Set the passenger(s) down in a safe place and make sure they know where they are going.
- Remember guide dogs are trained to remain on the floor of a vehicle and will not abuse your vehicle. Refusal to carry a guide dog without a medical exception is an offence under the Disability Discrimination Act and is in contravention of the conditions of your licence. In saloon cars, there is more room for the dog on the floor in the front of the vehicle.

## **Hearing Impaired Passengers**

If a passenger's hearing is impaired, always:

- Look at them when you are speaking. Speak clearly, but do not shout and do not use your hands to gesticulate in front of your face.
- Have a pad of paper and pen handy, as it is sometimes easier to communicate in writing.
- Make sure that they are aware that you have understood their instructions and that you know where the passenger is going.

## **Maintenance of Vehicles**

- Keep door handles, locks and hinges well lubricated. This reduces the amount of physical (often painful) effort required to operate them.

## APPENDIX C

### **Advice for Drivers and Operators when dealing with Difficult Passengers**

It is recognised that taxi drivers do on occasions have to deal with customers who, due to the influence of substances such as alcohol and possibly drugs, can be difficult and dangerous. These passengers can exhibit aggressive and sometimes violent tendencies, which can threaten the safety and welfare of the driver. If the vehicle is in motion, then this behaviour can distract a driver and may lead to the loss of control of the vehicle, with serious consequences for the occupants and other highway users. To assist drivers in dealing with these situations, the following guidelines have been issued:

1. Upon arrival to collect passengers, a driver may make a judgement as to whether the intended passengers are fit to travel in the vehicle. If a person is judged by the driver to represent a risk by their behaviour to the driver or other passengers, the driver may make the decision to refuse entry to the vehicle. The driver must inform the person of the reason for refusal and consider if this action has induced a change in that behaviour. If no change is evident, the driver must inform his base of his decision as soon as possible.
2. If passengers during a journey exhibit behaviour which is likely to threaten the safety or welfare of a driver, the driver must stop the vehicle at the earliest possible moment in a safe location. In deciding upon the location, the driver must take into account the possible risks to the passengers and themselves whilst stationary in that location. For example, is the stopping place likely to be hazardous to other traffic, or should the passengers leave the vehicle will they be at risk

from traffic? The driver should not attempt to continue on the journey until the behaviour has modified.

3. There may be occasions when the threat to the driver's safety is at such a level that it is necessary to stop the vehicle immediately. In doing so, the driver must be aware of the risks to other traffic in taking such action. The driver should take account of the Highway Code, in particular the sections on 'Waiting and Parking' and 'Breakdowns and Accidents', in making their decision. The driver must advise passengers on how and when to leave the vehicle and, if appropriate, where to stand in line with the guidance in the Highway Code.
4. Where the behaviour of passengers has resulted in a refusal to carry or in the stopping of a journey, the driver should contact his operator and advise them of the circumstances and location. The operator or driver should consider if the incident requires police attendance and, if deemed necessary, request it. A record should be kept by the driver or operator of any incident that occurs which they should produce at the request of an authorised Officer or Police Officer.
5. In vehicles where the driving section is separate from the passenger section by a partition, the driver should consider driving directly to a police station or to a public place, such as their operating base. At these locations, the risk to the safety and welfare of the driver can be limited.
6. In cases where the passenger(s) showing threatening behaviour are female, it is advised where possible to take the passenger(s) to a well lit area which is covered by CCTV, such as a 24-hour petrol station.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Recording of Contraventions**

The Council has agreed a system whereby infringements of the law or licence conditions by a licence holder can be recorded and given a value dependent upon the nature of the infringement. Any licensed person who in the opinion of an authorised officer has committed an infringement will be issued with a notice as shown on the following page.

If the licence holder believes that a notice has been issued in error, or that there are mitigating circumstances not taken into account by the officer, there is a right of appeal to the Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection at Time Square within 14 days of receiving the notice.

Please note that appeals will not be considered where there is a proven breach of construction and use regulations, such as an illegal tyre.

If the appeal is in respect of documentation provided to the Council, the applicant must provide proof that such documentation was submitted in the form of a receipt or similar. Failure to do so may render the appeal invalid.

The licence holder may be invited to a meeting to discuss the appeal.

The licence holder will receive notification of the decision of the appeal within 30 days of receipt of the notice of appeal.

The issue of a notice does not prevent the department from taking any other action in line with its published enforcement policy, including prosecution where this is felt to be appropriate.

Where 12 or more points are issued to a licence holder within a 12-month period, a report may be submitted to a meeting of the Licensing Panel for a decision to be made on whether the licence should be suspended or revoked. The Panel will receive the report from officers and invite representations from the licence holder.

The present list of infringements and points will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

**BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL**

Licensing Section, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, RG12 1JD  
 01344 352000 licence.all@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

<b>Contraventions</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>Contraventions</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>✓</b>
Unlicensed vehicle	12		Overcharging	6	
Driving with no valid insurance	12		Private hire vehicle parked on rank	6	
Unlicensed driver	12		Smoking in vehicle	6	
Driving with no valid MOT/inspection	12		Hackney carriage left unattended on rank	4	
Contravention of Stop Notice/suspension	12		Failure to notify accident	4	
Private Hire plying for hire	12		Failure to comply with traffic sign or signal	4	
Behaving in a disorderly manner	12-4		No Smokefree signage	4	
Failure to wear or display driver badge	8		Failure to provide MOT, inspection or insurance document	4	
Illegal tyres (per tyre)	8		Illegal use of bus lane	4	
C&U regulations	8-4		Failure to notify change of details	4	
Too many passengers	8		Horn misuse	3	
Failure to notify conviction, caution or fixed penalty notice	6		Failure to carry required equipment	3	
Failure to display plate or stickers	6		Vehicle in an unclean condition	2	
Use of hand held phone or radio while driving	6		Other:		

Details:

Plate no: ..... Vehicle reg no: ..... Badge no. ....

Driver's name: .....

The contravention(s) above mean(s) that you have acquired    points.

If you believe that this notice has been issued in error, or that there are mitigating circumstances not taken into account by the officer, there is a right of appeal to the Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection at Time Square within 14 days of receiving this notice. You will receive notification of the decision of the appeal within 30 days of receipt of the notice of appeal.

Date: ..... Officer: .....

## APPENDIX E

### Enforcement Table Town Police Clauses Act 1847

Section	Offence
40	Giving false information on application for HC proprietor's licence
44	Failure to notify change of address of HC proprietor
45	Plying for hire without HC proprietor's licence
47	Driving a HC without HC driver's licence
47	Lending or parting with HC driver's licence
47	HC proprietor employing unlicensed driver
48	Failure by HC proprietor to hold HC driver's licence
48	Failure by HC proprietor to produce HC driver's licence
52	Failure to display HC plate
53	Refusal to take a fare
54	Charging more than the agreed fare
55	Obtaining more than the legal fare
56	Travelling less than the lawful distance for an agreed fare
57	Failing to wait after a deposit to wait has been paid
58	Charging more than the legal fare
59	Carrying other person than the hirer without consent
60	Driving HC without proprietor's consent
60	Person allowing another to drive HC without proprietor's consent
61	Drunken driving of HC



61	Wanton or furious driving or wilful misconduct leading to injury or danger
62	Driver leaving HC unattended
64	HC driver obstructing other HCs

**Enforcement Table  
Hackney Carriage Provisions  
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act  
1976**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Offence</b>
49	Failure to notify transfer of HC proprietor's licence
50(1)	Failure to present HC for inspection as required
50(2)	Failure to inform local authority where HC is stored if requested
50(3)	Failure to report an accident to local authority
50(4)	Failure to produce HC proprietor's licence and insurance certificate
53(3)	Failure to produce HC driver's licence
57	Making false statement or withholding information to obtain HC driver's licence
58(2)	Failure to return plate after notice given after expiry, revocation or suspension of HC proprietor's licence
61(2)	Failure to surrender driver's licence after suspension, revocation or refusal to renew
64	Permitting any vehicle other than HC to wait on a HC stand
66	Charging more than the meter fare for a journey ending outside the district, without prior agreement
67	Charging more than the meter fare when HC used as private hire vehicle

69	Unnecessarily prolonging a journey
71	Interfering with a taximeter
73(1)(a)	Obstruction of authorised Officer or constable
73(1)(b)	Failure to comply with requirement of authorised Officer or constable
73(1)(c)	Failure to give information or assistance to authorised Officer or constable

**Enforcement Table  
Private Hire Provisions  
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Offence</b>
46(1)(a)	Using an unlicensed PH vehicle
46(1)(b)	Driving a PH vehicle without a PH driver's licence
46(1)(c)	Proprietor of a PH vehicle using an unlicensed driver
46(1)(d)	Operating a PH vehicle without a PH operator's licence
46(1)(e)	Operating a PH vehicle when the driver is not licensed as a PH driver
48(6)	Failure to display PH vehicle plate
49	Failure to notify transfer of PH vehicle licence
50(1)	Failure to represent PH vehicle for inspection as required
50(2)	Failure to inform local authority where PH vehicle is stored if requested
50(3)	Failure to report an accident to local authority
50(4)	Failure to produce PH vehicle licence and insurance certificate
53(3)	Failure to produce PH driver's licence
54(2)	Failure to wear PH driver's badge
56(2)	Failure by PH operator to keep records of

<b>Section</b>	<b>Offence</b>
	bookings
56(3)	Failure by PH operator to keep records of PH vehicles operated by him
56(4)	Failure to produce PH operator's licence on request
57	Making false statement or withholding information to obtain PH driver's or obtain PH driver's or operator's licence
58(2)	Failure to return plate after notice given after expiry, revocation or suspension of PH vehicle licence
61(2)	Failure to surrender driver's licence after suspension, revocation or refusal to renew
67	Charging more than the meter fare when HC used as PH vehicle
69	Unnecessarily prolonging a journey
71	Interfering with a taximeter
73(1)(a)	Obstruction of authorised Officer or constable
73(1)(b)	Failure to comply with requirement of authorised Officer or constable
73(1)(c)	Failure to give information or assistance to authorised Officer or constable

## APPENDIX F

### CRITERIA FOR ADVERTISING ON HACKNEY CARRIAGES

1. All advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing and it is the responsibility of the agency or individual seeking the Council's approval to ensure that they do so.
2. Each application will be considered on its merits, but advertisements containing the following will not be approved:
  - a) Those with political, ethnic, religious, sexual or controversial texts;
  - b) Those for escort agencies or massage parlours;
  - c) Those displaying nude or semi-nude figures;
  - d) Those which seek to involve the driver as an agent of the advertisers;
  - e) Those likely to offend public taste (including material depicting bodily functions and the use of obscene or distasteful language);
  - f) Those which seek to advertise more than one company.
3. All advertisement liveries must be approved by the Council and proposals must be accompanied by full colour, three-view art work.

4. The hackney carriage may be required to attend the Council offices for inspection of the finished livery.
5. The bodywork of the hackney carriage must be maintained in good condition. If any panels on the vehicle are damaged, they must be replaced within 7 days.
6. No secondary advertising of any kind will be permitted, whether in the form of the logo of the company preparing the vehicle or the name of the advertising agency.
7. No logos or words will be allowed on the boot lid area.
8. If approved, the livery may remain on the vehicle for a period of one year. At the end of that year, the vehicle owner may apply for an extension for a further 12 months which may be granted subject to an inspection of the quality of the livery and bodywork. This would be subject to a renewal application process and fee.

## **APPENDIX G**

### **AGE LIMITATION ON VEHICLES**

#### **Exceptional Condition**

A vehicle will not be regarded as in “exceptional condition” except where evidence has been presented to the Council that the vehicle has been regularly serviced and maintained in line with the manufacturer’s servicing schedule.

When considering the exterior and interior of the vehicle the following matters will be taken into consideration in judging if the condition is exceptional. A single item dependant upon the extent of damage or cosmetic appearance will not necessarily result in refusal to extend the use of the vehicle but 2 or more items in all areas will require correction, replacement or repair for an extension to be granted.

#### **Exterior of vehicle**

1. The exterior paintwork on the vehicle should not:
  - a) shows signs of rusting
  - b) be faded or show signs of mismatched paint repairs
  - c) have 5 or more stone chips greater than 2mm in length in any direction
  - d) have 8 or more stone chips of any size
  - e) have any scratches, cracks or abrasions where the top layer of paint has been removed.
  
2. The exterior bodywork of the vehicle should not:
  - a) have 2 or more dents greater than 10mm in length in any direction

- b) have 4 or more dents less than 10mm in length in any direction
  - c) have fittings that are missing, broken or damaged.
3. Have wheels and wheel trims that have significant damage which detracts from the overall excellent condition of the vehicle.
  4. The vehicle must be submitted for inspection in a clean state such that an effective inspection is possible. Should the vehicle be submitted in an unclean state then the application shall be refused.
  5. The engine compartment must not be in a dirty condition or have evidence of leaks including water, oil or hydraulic fluids.

### **Interior of vehicle**

6. The seating and carpet areas of the vehicle shall not show signs of:
  - a) staining
  - b) damp
  - c) fraying or ripping of the material
  - d) seat covers that are loose or badly fitted.
7. The seats should provide sufficient support for comfortable travel and should not demonstrate excessive compression of the seating area or wear within the support mechanism.
8. Interior panels and fittings within the vehicle should not be damaged nor show excessive wear, or staining.
9. The interior of the vehicle should not have damp or other obnoxious smells.

## **Abnormally Low Mileage**

The Council will not regard a vehicle as having travelled an abnormally low mileage in the following circumstances:

1. A vehicle intended for normal private use with a mileage in excess of 200,000 miles, or
2. A vehicle purposely built for use as a licensed vehicle with a mileage in excess of 300,000 miles, or
3. A “prestige car” with a mileage in excess of 300,000 miles.

## **Prestige Car**

A “prestige car” is to be defined as an executive style vehicle with the following minimum requirements:

1. Be a four door saloon motor car and would not normally be a hatchback
2. Be not less than 14.9 ft (4470mm) in length
3. The vehicle interior and exterior shall be of the very highest quality in design and use of materials available.
4. Must have sufficient space for passengers and equipment in so much as:
  - a) rear height (seat to roof, measured from point of contact between seat cushion and back of seat) - 36” (91cm)
  - b) depth of seat – 20” (51cm)
  - c) knee space – (back of seat squab) with front seats fully back – 29” (73.5cm)



5. The vehicle should carry no more than:
  - a) one passenger in the front;
  - b) three passengers in the rear, unless it is specifically designed or adapted to do so;
  - c) each rear seat passenger should have a minimum clear seat width for each passenger of at least 19” (48.2cm).
6. The engine capacity must exceed 2 litres.
7. The vehicle must not be designed or adapted as a personnel carrier, mini bus, people mover or other like vehicle.