

TAXI NEWS

December 2020

Online Copy

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

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

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

We are able to accept applications for vehicle grants, change of vehicle and temporary vehicle applications.

We are still unable to accept new driver applications at the present time. As part of the licensing process applicants are required to attend the Licensing Office to undertake the suitability/knowledge tests; unfortunately we do not yet have the facilities to enable this to be carried out by any other means other than in person and due to COVID restrictions the Council Offices are not yet open to the public.

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

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

How to pay fees

Please ensure that you either pay online using the TDC website, or please phone the office on 01255 68 6565 to pay over the phone. You will need your invoice number for both methods of payment.

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

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

Government guidance for taxi passengers

For passengers travelling in taxis or on public transport during the coronavirus outbreak, please use the following link to find out more:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Finance

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

The coronavirus helpline is:
0300 4563565.

You may also be entitled to the Coronavirus (COVID-19): business support grant funding. To find out more you can use the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding>

Stay Safe

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

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

Preparing your vehicle for the next passenger

Between every journey you should:

- clean those parts of your vehicle that you or passengers may have touched, for example, door handles, payment devices, protective screens, buttons, seats

- open doors / windows to ventilate the car for 5 minutes
- wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser

Actions that drivers, operators and owners of taxis or private hire vehicles (PHVs) can take to protect against coronavirus, to find out more you can use the following link:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): taxis and PHVs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding)

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

email: taxi@tendingdc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01255 68 6565



ATS Euromaster – Mechanical Tests

Please note the Christmas opening times for ATS:

Thursday 24 Dec	08.30am – 2.30pm
Friday 25 Dec	Closed
Saturday 26 Dec	Closed
Monday 28 Dec	Closed
Tuesday 29 Dec	Open as usual
Wednesday 30 Dec	Open as usual
Thursday 31 Dec	8.30am – 2.30pm
Friday 1 Jan	Closed
Saturday 2 Jan	Open as usual
Monday 4 Jan	Open as usual

Licensing Christmas Closure

The Licensing Team will be unavailable from 4pm on 24th December 2020 and will re-open on Monday 4th January 2021.

As your Licensing Authority, we would like to thank you for your cooperation during this trying time, and we wish you, your families and businesses all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.
