

TAXI NEWS

5 January 2018

NEW YEAR EDITION

Firstly all of us in the Licensing Team hope you had a happy Christmas and New Year! This edition of Taxi News is slightly different from the norm, as not only is it very recent since our Christmas edition was sent out, but there are also only a couple of items to bring to your attention on this occasion. One is a recurring issue which we would like to resolve as we head into 2018 and beyond.

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Driver Conditions

We have had a number of recent examples of licensed drivers failing to adhere to their HC/PH licence conditions. As in law, ignorance is not a defence, and every driver is issued with either a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver licence. There is no excuse for not knowing them.

The specific condition which relates to our recent examples is Condition 17 of the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Dual licence and Condition 12 of the Private Hire licence, which both state the following:

"The driver shall notify the Council in writing within a period of seven days of any caution/conviction (whether criminal or motoring) being imposed upon him or her during the period of this Licence or within a period of seven days of any fixed penalty offence (as defined in Section 51 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988) being endorsed upon his or her driving licence during the period of this licence."

Please can we ask that in the event of receiving a criminal or motoring caution or conviction (this includes fixed penalty notices for speeding offences), you ensure that you notify us within the seven day timeframe, as failure to do so is a

breach of your licence conditions and nor will it go in your favour at a potential Committee hearing.

You may find this a good opportunity to familiarise yourself with the conditions, all of which can be found on your Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver licence card. If anyone cannot find theirs please contact the office as it is a requirement that you have a copy. Unlike the driver badge, you are not expected to have the driver licence card with you when working; however it should always be kept in a safe place for reference.

Bus Lanes

Despite the information given in our December 2017 newsletter, it would appear a member of the taxi trade was still issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice for travelling through a bus lane in Colchester during the last few weeks. Therefore this is just to advise that in the event of anyone else having a similar experience, we can confirm that we have again been in contact with Essex County Council Highways and rectified the issue. The individual who received the FPN has had it removed and the same should apply for anyone else. So once again we can confirm all HC's & PH's are permitted to use Colchester bus lanes. If you do receive any FPN's in Colchester bus lanes going forward, please let us know as this can only be the result of an error and we will then endeavour to correct it again with ECC Highways on your behalf.

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Thank you for reading this edition of Taxi News. We always welcome suggestions for future newsletters so please let us know if you think there may be something beneficial for your colleagues in the trade to know about. In the meantime please keep safe, drive safe and always pay extra attention to the weather conditions during these dark winter months.