

BOROUGH OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1976

HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES

CONDITIONS OF LICENCE

Conduct of Driver

The driver shall:-

Afford all reasonable assistance with passengers' luggage

At all times be clean and respectable in his dress and person and behave in a civil and orderly manner.

Take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of passengers conveyed in, entering or alighting from the vehicle driven by him.

Not without the express consent of the hirer smoke, drink or eat in the vehicle.

Not without the express consent of the hirer play any radio or sound reproducing instrument or equipment in the vehicle other than for the purpose of sending or receiving messages in connection with the operation of the vehicle.

At no time cause or permit the noise emitted by any radio or other previously mentioned equipment in the vehicle which he is driving to be a source of nuisance or annoyance to any person, whether inside or outside the vehicle.

Passengers

The driver shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in a hackney carriage a greater number of persons than that prescribed in the licence for the vehicle, provided however that for this purpose two children below the age of ten years may be counted as one person insofar as the rear seating only is concerned.

The driver shall not allow there to be conveyed in the front of a hackney carriage any child below the age of ten years or more than one person above that age.

The driver shall ensure that, with the exception of any statutory exemptions, any child under the age of 14 years in the rear of the vehicle wears a seat belt. It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to drive a vehicle on a road unless the child is wearing a seat belt in conformity with the regulations.

The driver shall not without the consent of the hirer of a vehicle convey or permit to be conveyed any other person in that vehicle.

Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs

The driver shall carry a guide dog, or assistance dog, belonging to a passenger free of charge unless the driver has a proven medical condition that would preclude him/her from doing so.

The driver shall produce to the Council a Medical Certificate signed by his General Medical practitioner, to prove such a medical condition, on his application for a private hire driver licence,

or if he/she develops such a medical condition after the grant of a licence as soon as he/she is aware of it.

The driver shall also make his/her Operator aware of any such medical condition at the time of commencement of working for that Operator, or as soon as he/she is aware of such a medical condition, whichever is the earlier.

“Guide dog” means a dog, which assists a person with a sight impairment.

“Assistance dog” means dog which assists a person with a hearing or other impairment.

Written Receipts

Upon request the driver of a hackney carriage shall, upon being required to do so by a hirer, issue a receipt in respect of fares charged for hiring and a notice informing hirers of this facility shall be displayed in the interior of the hackney carriage in such position and manner that the same shall be clearly legible to persons being conveyed therein.

Lost Property

The driver shall immediately after the termination of any hiring of a hackney carriage or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the vehicle for any property which may have been accidentally left there.

If any property accidentally left in a hackney carriage by any person who may have been conveyed therein is found by or handed to the driver, the driver shall carry it within 24 hours, if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner, to the office of the Council and leave it in the custody of the Officer in Charge of the Licensing Section in the Legal and Democratic Division on his giving a receipt for it.

Animals

The driver shall not convey in a hackney carriage any animal belonging to or in the custody of himself or the proprietor or operator of the vehicle and any animal belonging to or in the custody of any passenger which in the driver's discretion may be conveyed in the vehicle shall only be conveyed in the rear of the vehicle.

Prompt Attendance

The driver of a hackney carriage shall, if he is aware that the vehicle has been hired to be in attendance at an appointed time and place, punctually attend at that appointed time and place unless delayed or prevented by sufficient cause.

Copy of Conditions

The driver shall at all times when driving a hackney carriage carry with him a copy of these conditions and shall make it available for inspection by the hirer or any other passenger on request.

Deposit of Licence

If the driver is permitted or employed to drive a hackney carriage of which the proprietor is someone other than himself, he shall before commencing to drive that vehicle deposit this licence with that proprietor for retention by him until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any other vehicle of his.

Taximeter

The driver shall not cause the fare recorded on the taximeter to be cancelled or concealed until the hirer has had a reasonable opportunity of examining it and has paid the fare (unless credit is to be given).

The driver shall not demand from any hirer of a hackney carriage a fare in excess of any previously agreed for that hiring or the fare shown on the face of the taximeter.

Fare to be Demanded

A hackney carriage shall not be used in the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme under a Contract or purported Contract for private hire except at a rate of fares or charges not greater than those prescribed in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 if any or otherwise prescribed in accordance with bye-laws made for that purpose under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and when the hackney carriage is so used the fare or charge shall be calculated from the point in the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme at which the hirer commences his journey.

Change of Address

The driver shall notify the Council in writing of any change of his address during the period of the licence within seven days of such change taking place.

Convictions

The driver shall, within seven days, disclose to the Council in writing details of any conviction imposed on him during the period of the licence.

Return of Badge

The driver, shall upon the expiry (without immediate renewal), revocation or suspension of this licence forthwith return to the Council the driver's badge issued to him by the Council when granting this licence.

Use as a Hackney Carriage

The driver shall use his/her best endeavours to secure that a vehicle be used as a hackney carriage to stand and ply for hire within the district and for no other purpose.

The Borough Council may vary all or any of the conditions herein contained at any time.