

# LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL

## HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING FOR VEHICLES

### Guidance for Applicants

There are no restrictions on the number of Hackney Carriage or Private Hire plates that are issued by Lewes District Council.

As a general policy vehicles presented for first licensing shall not be more than 5 years old from the date of first registration, and vehicles more than 10 years old will not be re-licensed.

It is important to note that once a vehicle is licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire it is then licensed 24 hours a day 7 days a week and can only **EVER** be driven by a person who holds a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence.

Left hand vehicles will not be licensed.

Vehicles shall not be less than 1290cc and must be fitted with a minimum of four side doors.

Vehicles shall be so designed to permit the specified number of passengers to be carried in comfort and safety. The rear seat must be at least 48"/122cm wide and all seats shall have a minimum of width of 16"/41cm per person.

The vehicle must have adequate luggage space for the number of passengers for which the vehicle is licensed. Certain vehicles may require a tow bar with access to a trailer.

Vehicles may be of saloon, estate, hatchback or MPV type, all of which require approval from the council. Estate vehicles must be fitted with a grill or parcel shelf.

A Hackney Carriage requires "Public Hire Insurance" and a Private Hire Vehicle requires "Private Hire Insurance". Both insurances can be costly and it may be advisable to obtain an insurance quote before deciding to purchase a vehicle.

A valid MOT certificate is required for Hackney Carriage Vehicles at one year old and Private Hire Vehicles at three years old. Both categories of vehicle require two garage inspections per year at an authorised MOT testing station, within the Lewes District Council area, one at licensing and one six months later.

Hackney Carriages require a calendar controlled taximeter set to the Lewes District Council fare tariff. Private Hire Vehicles need not be fitted with a meter. Hackney Carriages require a roof sign and both vehicles require a Fire Extinguisher and First Aid Kit.

Plates issued to both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles always remain the property of the Council and must be returned when a licensed vehicle is de-plated. The plate must be fixed to the rear of the vehicle on the **OUTSIDE AT ALL TIMES**. It is an offence under the Bye Laws to have the plate in the rear window of the vehicle.

At present a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicle Licence costs **£175.00** (annually) and a plate costs **£30.00** (one off payment).