



Cyngor **Abertawe**
Swansea Council

**Report of the Licensing and
Food & Safety Manager
General Licensing Committee
13th July 2018**

**Exemption from Displaying Licence Plate and Door
Decals on Restricted Private Hire Vehicles**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Members of the General Licensing Committee of July 2018 requested that consideration be made for Licensing Officers to be given delegated authorisation to approve requests for exemptions from displaying licence plates and door decals.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Restricted Private Hire Vehicles provide services for school transport, airport travel and executive hire. They are any colour.
- 2.2 Unlike hackney carriage and private hire vehicles who display a licence plate on the rear and door decals on the front near side and off side doors, restricted private hire vehicles displayed a window licence of credit card size showing the vehicle licence number, expiry date of the licence, registration mark of the vehicle licensed and maximum number of persons permitted to be carried in the vehicle.
- 2.3 Concerns were raised by school transport officers that restricted private hire vehicles were not easily identifiable as a licensed vehicle due to the vehicles being any colour and not displaying door decals and a licence plate on the rear of the vehicle.
- 2.4 To address the concerns a report was considered by the General Licensing Committee in September 2017 proposing that restricted private hire vehicles are required to display door decals and a licence plate on the rear of the vehicle in line with the current requirements for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A.

- 2.5 The decision of the Members of the General Licensing Committee was to approve the report.

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 Since September 2017 all restricted private hire vehicle applications that have been approved for the grant or renewal of a licence have been issued with a licence plate and door decals which complies with the amended restricted private hire vehicle condition 23:

“Vehicle plates and stickers must be securely fixed to the vehicle. The vehicle plate is to be fixed on the bumper bar or boot lid/rear door between centre line and the offside of the vehicle. Stickers must be affixed to the front near and offside doors of the vehicle. The plate and stickers must be kept clearly visible at all times. The vehicle plate must be returned to the Council on expiry of the licence.”

- 3.2 Concerns are now being received from proprietors of restricted private hire vehicles who do not use the vehicles for school transport only for airport travel and executive hire. The vehicles provide an executive service and they do not wish them to be identified as a Taxi as it detracts from the level of service for them to look like a private hire vehicle.

4.0 Proposed Procedure

- 4.1 In view of the request by Members it is proposed that where a request is received for an exemption from displaying a licence plate and door decals on a restricted private hire vehicle which is only used for airport transfer and executive hire and not for school transport, that the request is approved by Officers on behalf of the General Licensing Committee and that a condition reflecting this is attached to each individual vehicle licence.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members authorise Officers of the Licensing Section to approve requests for exemptions from displaying licence plates and door decals on restricted private hire vehicles where the vehicles are only used for airport transfer and executive hire and not for school transport and a condition reflecting this is to be attached to each individual vehicle licence.

Background Papers: Licence Applications
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