

From: Taxi Privatehire

Sent: 27 May 2021 15:42

To:

Subject: New BCP taxi and private hire policy comes into force on the 1st June 2021.

This Email is for both Drivers and Vehicles, please read thoroughly

Please Ensure your Email address is correct and up to date if it has changed please inform the Licensing Team – taxi.privatehire@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Email to all Drivers

As you know the new BCP taxi and private hire policy comes into force on the 1st June 2021.

I am sure there will be a lot of queries and questions as we move forward. Please be patient and know that the team will endeavour to provide answers and responses as soon as possible.

Some changes within the policy will affect drivers from some zones more than others, the main changes that will affect you as a licenced driver are as follows: -

- 1. One Private Hire (PH) Area-** anyone who holds a BCP Council licenced PH driving licence can now drive any BCP Council licenced PH vehicle and work for any BCP Council licenced operator. This means a Poole PH driver can now drive a Christchurch PH vehicle and work for a Bournemouth PH operator.
- 2. Three Hackney Carriage areas –** there will continue to be three areas which are licenced separately, Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch so anyone currently licenced in these zones can still only ply for hire within the existing zone.
- 3. DBS update service –** on renewal you must submit an enhanced DBS and you **MUST** sign up to the DBS update service on the Gov.Uk website this will then allow us to check your DBS status every 6 months. <https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service>. You **MUST** still notify the licensing team if you receive any caution conviction, caution or penalty.
- 4. Renewals –**Reminders will now only be sent out via email (it is your responsibility to update us if this changes) The renewal application must be fully submitted prior to the expiry of the driver licence. A valid application includes all necessary paperwork and the payment. If you do not submit all the necessary paperwork before the expiry date your licence will be suspended until we receive it all. If nothing is submitted by the expiry date your licence will be deemed lapsed.
- 5. DVLA driving licence check –** as part of the renewal process you will receive a series of email from Licence Link. You will be sent full details as part of your renewal reminder paperwork.
- 6. Safeguarding training –** you are required to refresh your training every three years on renewal of your licence. You must attend classroom training where possible and you must use an approved provider – Blue Lamp Trust <https://bluelamptrust.org.uk/safeguarding-classroom/> or Dorset Council Safeguarding Training k.rice@dorsetcc.gov.uk or call 01305 225726
We recognise that drivers renewing in June/July/August will not have time to do this training in advance of their renewal so we are allowing a 3 month period for these drivers to complete and submit their certificates, failure to do so will result in the licence being suspended until the certificate is provided.

From September all driver renewals will be required to be accompanied by a safeguarding certificate.

7. **Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Drivers** – anyone who drives a WAV vehicle is expected to attend refresher training in wheelchair assistance at an approved providers – Brockenhurst college <https://www.brock.ac.uk/college-course/theory-and-practice-of-wheelchair-transportation-in-vehicles/> or The Bournemouth and Poole College https://www.thecollege.co.uk/?_vsrefdom=p.15522&gclid=EAlaQobChMI7duUzrDp8AIVQrvVCh0AkgtzEAAAYASAAEgIKR_D_BwE
8. **Medical Certificates** – are required to be submitted on or prior to the drivers Birthday at the ages 45, 50, 55, 60, 65 and then annually. Reminders will be sent, if the certificate is not submitted on or before the drivers Birthday their licence will be suspended.

Email to all Vehicle Licence Holders

As you know the new BCP taxi and private hire policy comes into force on the 1st June 2021.

I am sure there will be a lot of queries and questions as we move forward. Please be patient and know that the team will endeavour to provide answers and responses as soon as possible.

Some changes within the policy will affect licence holders from some zones more than others, the main changes that will affect you as a licenced driver are as follows: -

1. **One Private Hire (PH) Area/zone-** anyone who holds a BCP Council licenced PH vehicle licence can now be driven by any BCP Council licenced PH driver and work for any BCP Council licenced operator. This means a Poole PH vehicle can now be driven by a Christchurch PH driver and work for a Bournemouth PH operator. At renewal all PH vehicles will be issued with a new plate and number.
2. **Three Hackney Carriage areas/zones** – there will continue to be three areas/zone which are licenced separately, Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch.
3. **Mechanical Testing (MOT and MEC)**– your vehicles will now be required to be mechanically examined **TWICE** a year at 6 monthly internals. Your vehicle must have an MOT (at any garage) and an MEC which **MUST** be carried out at one of the councils testing stations either Southcote Road in Bournemouth or Hatchpond Road in Poole.

For Christchurch/Poole licence holders – your most up to date MOT/council test will be used to set your MOT date, we then use this to determine the MEC date which will be 6 months on from your MOT. You will receive a letter explaining how you can book this test 2 months in advance. For example, if you had an MOT in December your MEC will be due in June.

For WAVs – if your vehicle has a hoist you will be required to provide evidence that this has been properly maintained in accordance with LOLER regulations on an annual basis.

9. **Renewals** – Reminders will now only be sent out via email (it is your responsibility to update us if this changes) The renewal application must be fully submitted prior to the expiry of the vehicle licence. A valid application includes all necessary paperwork and the payment. If you do not submit all the necessary paperwork before the expiry date your licence will be suspended until we receive it all. If nothing is submitted by the expiry date your licence will be deemed lapsed and you will have to apply for a new vehicle licence and meet all the relevant criteria.

4. **WAVs** – if your vehicle is a WAV you are expected to provide evidence that your driver has received wheelchair assistance training so on renewal you will be asked to provide the training certificate for your we will accept certificates from – Brockenhurst college or The Bournemouth and Poole College.
5. **DBS**- licence holders who are not drivers will be required to provide a basic DBS certificate on renewal. Guidance will be posted on our website shortly.
6. **New or Change of vehicle**- Any replacement vehicle must meet the same requirements as a new vehicle. The vehicle must be Euro 6 compliant, be under 3.5 years of age and of a make and model approved by the Licensing Team. Existing licenced vehicles will not be moved between plates unless it meets this standard.
Printer in Hackney Carriages – In line with other requirements, you have until 31st December 2024 to install a receipt printer.
7. **HC livery change** - All existing vehicles have until 31st December 2024 to meet the new livery requirements including respraying your vehicle white. If you replace your vehicle this will need to meet the new requirements.
8. **Vehicles 15 years and older** – If your vehicle is now 15 years or older you will be required to replace it from 1st January 2022. After this date we will not renew any vehicle over 15 years old.