

Taxi Licensing Newsletter Dec 2020

Welcome to the final newsletter for this year and hopefully a return to normality next year. There is not much to report this month but I have again included the covid secure information from last month, for the safety of all, please follow this.

1. Councillors have approved a one-off payment to HC and PH drivers

The policy was approved at last nights (17th Dec) committee meeting and applications will go "live" on our website on Monday 21 Dec 2020.

The window for applications will close at 5pm on 8th January 2021. Any applications received after this time will not be considered.

I understand the amount of the grant is £250.

2. We have not received any objections to the fees proposed for the next financial year so as previously published there is no change to existing fees.

3. The Department for Transport have published the [official statistics on taxi and private hire vehicles \(PHV\) in England.](#)

The statistics include information on taxis and private hire vehicles in England as of 31 March 2020, so do not show the impact of COVID-19 on the industry.

The information includes PHV operators and enlisted drivers who use app-based technology, but does not disaggregate which drivers are using these apps in the figures presented. Figures are updated every year through surveying each licensing authority (a unitary or lower tier authority) in England and Wales.

The statistics show at end March 2020:

- there were 298,800 licensed taxis and PHVs
- 77% of all licensed vehicles were PHVs
- 57% of licensed taxis were wheelchair accessible
- all taxis in London were wheelchair accessible
- 364,900 driver licences
- 64% of licences were PHV only licences

- 14% were taxi only licences
- 22% were dual licences

The total number of licensed vehicles in England in March 2020 shows an increase of 2.3% (6,800 vehicles) compared with 2019, to 298,800. This is the highest number since comparable records were first collected in 2005. The increase was driven by Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs), with just over three quarters (77%) of licensed vehicles are PHVs.

4. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for taxis and PHVs Published Date: 19/11/2020

Please ensure you and your passengers follow the guidance

The government has [issued comprehensive guidance for taxi and PHV sector](#) on actions that drivers, operators and owners of taxis or private hire vehicles (PHVs) can take to protect against coronavirus. We will put this guidance on our website as well and should there be any further updates we will let you know.

The new guidance covers the following topics:

- National restrictions
- Drivers
- Carrying out a COVID-19 risk assessment - drivers
- Picking up passengers
- In the vehicle
- End of journey - leaving the vehicle
- Preparing your vehicle for the next passenger
- If you have coronavirus symptoms or have been told to self-isolate
- Financial help for drivers
- PHV operators and taxi intermediaries
- Carrying out a COVID-19 risk assessment - operators and intermediaries
- Providing health information to drivers and passengers
- Financial help for PHV operators and taxi intermediaries

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-taxis-and-phvs>

Please ensure you and your passengers follow the guidance