

Report

Report to:	Licensing Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 February 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (As Amended) - Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Cars
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider the amendment to the criteria for taxis and private hire cars as detailed in Appendix 2

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the engine output be altered in the attached criteria from 68kw to 'any' as shown at Appendix 2.

3. Background

- 3.1. At its meeting held on 10 February 2016 it was agreed that the same criteria be introduced for taxis and private hire cars (Appendix 1). At this time after discussion with a working group involving representatives from Fleet Services and Licensing and Registration. It was agreed that we would move away from engine capacity and use kilowatts instead which would enable electric vehicles to be put on as taxi/private hire cars.
- 3.2. Since then, as a result of consultation with the various focus groups and a short informal benchmarking exercise with various authorities, it would appear that due to the standard of vehicles now available that it is possible to amend the criteria and move away from a set 'outage'. Accordingly it is now requested that vehicle 'outage' is now designated as 'any'.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. None.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. None.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1 The risk to the Council is that it fails to fulfil its duty to protect the public.
- 6.2 There are no apparent implications in terms of sustainable development.

7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 7.1 There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within the report.
- 7.2. Consultation has previously been carried out with representatives of the trade with regard to the introduction of more updated criteria.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

29 January 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ Make Communities Safer, Stronger and Sustainable.

Previous References

- ♦ Licensing Committee, 10 February 2016

List of Background Papers

- ♦ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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**Finance and Corporate Resources
Administration and Legal Services**

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended)

Current standards for taxis and private hire cars

1. Vehicles should be under five years old when they are first registered as a licensed vehicle.
2. The upper age limit for any licensed saloon-type vehicle (ie non purpose built vehicles) is 10 years but purpose-built vehicles licensed as taxis have no upper age limit. Vehicles over five years old will be subject to a six monthly inspection with the exception of purpose built vehicles which will require a six monthly inspection once they reach seven years old.
3. The engine output should be at least 90 hp (68 kw).
4. The vehicle should have four or five doors. If the vehicle is an estate or hatchback, it should have two passenger windows in the back.
5. The vehicle should be designed for carrying at least four (and no more than eight) adult passengers, not including the driver.
6. The back seat of the vehicle must be at least 48 inches wide, as measured by the Licensing Authority, for a vehicle designed as being capable of carrying only four adult passengers, not including the driver. If the vehicle is designed for carrying between four and eight adult passengers, not including the driver, each seat must be at least 16 inches wide.

Taxis only – A metropolitan type of vehicle (black cab) is a vehicle designed and made to be used as a taxi. In this type of vehicle, the main passenger compartment at the back of the driver can seat at least four passengers and is separated from the driver by a partition which would include a sliding panel.

7. The vehicle should not be left-hand drive.
8. A fire extinguisher should be fitted in an appropriate position in the vehicle.
9. The vehicle may be fitted with a specially adapted front seat for disabled passengers. This type of seat must not be fitted unless approved by the Local Authority.
10. Any changes to the colour of the vehicle, including full liveried advertising (for taxis only), should be recorded on the V5 document and a copy provided to the Licensing and Registration Section.
11. The vehicle must keep the original manufacturer's equipment (for example, seats must not be changed)
12. The vehicle should have enough space for luggage for the number of people being carried.



**Finance and Corporate Resources
Administration and Legal Services**

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (as amended)

Proposed Standards for taxis and private hire cars

1. Vehicles should be under five years old when they are first registered as a licensed vehicle.
2. The upper age limit for any licensed saloon-type vehicle (ie non purpose built vehicles) is 10 years but purpose-built vehicles licensed as taxis have no upper age limit. Vehicles over five years old will be subject to a six monthly inspection with the exception of purpose built vehicles which will require a six monthly inspection once they reach seven years old.
3. The engine output shall be any number of KW.
4. The vehicle should have four or five doors. If the vehicle is an estate or hatchback, it should have two passenger windows in the back.
5. The vehicle should be designed for carrying at least four (and no more than eight) adult passengers, not including the driver.
6. The back seat of the vehicle must be at least 48 inches wide, as measured by the Licensing Authority, for a vehicle designed as being capable of carrying only four adult passengers, not including the driver. If the vehicle is designed for carrying between four and eight adult passengers, not including the driver, each seat must be at least 16 inches wide.

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