

Hackney Carriage Byelaws

BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM
BYELAWS WITH RESPECT TO HACKNEY CARRIAGES

Made under Section 68 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and Section 171 of the Public Health Act 1875 by the Rotherham Borough Council with respect to hackney carriages within the Borough of Rotherham.

Interpretation

1. Throughout these byelaws the following expressions shall have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:-
"The Council" means the Rotherham Borough Council.
"District" means the Borough of Rotherham.
"Approval" means approved by the Council.
"Hours of Darkness" has the meaning assigned to it by the Road Traffic Act 1972

Provisions regulating the manner in which the number of each hackney carriage corresponding with the number of its licence shall be displayed.

2. (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:
 - (i) cause the hackney carriage licence plate provided by the Council and showing the number of the licence granted to him in respect of the carriage to be affixed on the outside of the carriage in such position as the Council may require;
 - (ii) cause the number of the licence issued by the Council in respect of the vehicle to be shown on the statement of fare provided in pursuance of Byelaw No. 18.
- (b) A proprietor or driver of hackney carriage shall:
 - (i) not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer any such number to be concealed from public view while the carriage is standing or plying for hire;
 - (ii) not cause or permit the carriage to stand or ply for hire with any such plate so defaced that any figure or material particular is illegible.

Provisions regulating how hackney carriages are to be furnished or provided.

3. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:-
 - (a) provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver;
 - (b) cause the roof or covering to be kept water-tight;
 - (c) provide any necessary windows and a means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side;
 - (d) cause the seats to be properly cushioned or covered;

- (e) cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering;
 - (f) cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service;
 - (g) provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed to carry luggage;
 - (h) provide an efficient and approve fire extinguisher which shall be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use;
 - (i) provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such carriage and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver;
 - (j) provide the carriage with a spare wheel and tyre in such a condition that is readily available for use in case of a puncture or damaged tyre or wheel, together with all the necessary tools and equipment for readily effecting the replacement.
4. (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the same to be provided with a taximeter so constructed attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirements, that is to say:-
- (i) if the taximeter is fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words "FOR HIRE":-
 - (a) the words "FOR HIRE" shall be exhibited on each side of the flag or other device in plain letters at least 1½ inches in height and the flag or other device shall be capable of being illuminated and of being locked in a position in which the words are horizontal and legible;
 - (b) when the flag or other device is so locked the machinery of the taximeter shall not be in action and the means of bringing it into action shall be by moving the flag or other device so that the words are not conveniently legible;
 - (c) when the flag or other device is so locked that the aforesaid words are horizontal and legible no fare shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter;
 - (ii) if the taximeter is not fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words "FOR HIRE":-
 - (a) the taximeter shall be fitted with a key or other device the turning of which will bring machinery of the taximeter into action and cause the word "HIRED" to appear on the face of the taximeter;
 - (b) such a key or other device shall be capable of being locked in such a position that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
 - (iii) when the machinery of the taximeter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in figures clearly legible and free from ambiguity a fare not exceeding the rate or fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take in pursuance of Byelaw No. 17 for the hire of the carriage by distance between the hours of 6.00 a.m. and midnight.

- (iv) The word "FARE" shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as they clearly apply to the fare recorded thereon;
 - (v) The taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof may be at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the carriage and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be suitably illuminated during any period of hiring;
 - (vi) The taximeter and all the fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the carriage with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any persons to tamper with them except by breaking damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.
- (b) The proprietor of a hackney carriage provided with a taximeter not fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words "FOR HIRE" shall cause the carriage to be provided with a sign so constructed as to comply with the following requirements, that is to say:-
- (i) the sign shall bear the words "FOR HIRE" in plain letters at least 1½ inches in height;
 - (ii) the sign shall be capable of being so operated that it indicates clearly and conveniently to persons outside the carriage whether or not the carriage is for hire and of being suitably illuminated.
- (c) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the carriage to be fitted with a "TAXI" sign which shall be of an approved type, and shall be capable of being illuminated. The sign shall be attached to the carriage in an approved manner and shall display to the front of the carriage the word "TAXI" horizontally in letters not less than 2 inches high to proportionate width and the proprietor's trading name shall be suitably included.

Provisions regulating the conduct of the proprietors and drivers of hackney carriages plying within the district in their several employments and determining whether such drivers shall wear and what badges:-

5. The driver of a hackney carriage shall:-
- (a) if the taximeter is fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words "FOR HIRE":-
 - (i) when standing or plying for hire keep such flag or other device locked in the position in which the words are horizontal and legible;
 - (ii) as soon as the hirer enters the carriage, or at such earlier times as the hirer may agree, bring the machinery of the taximeter into action by moving the flags or other device so that the words are not conveniently legible and keep the machinery of the taximeter in action until the termination of the hiring;
 - (b) if the taximeter is not fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words "FOR HIRE":-

- (i) when standing or plying for hire keep the taximeter locked in position in which no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter and operate the sign provided in pursuance of Byelaw No. 4 so that the words "FOR HIRE" are clearly and conveniently legible by persons outside the carriage;
 - (ii) as soon as the carriage is hired whether by distance or time, operate the said sign so that the words "FOR HIRE" are not conveniently legible by persons outside the carriage;
 - (iii) as soon as the hirer enters the carriage, or at such earlier time as the hirer may agree, bring the machinery of the taximeter into action by moving the key or other device fitted for the purpose so that the word "HIRED" is legible on the face of the taximeter and keep the machinery of the taximeter in action until the termination of the hiring.
- (c) Cause the dial of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of a hiring which is during the hours of darkness and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.
- (d) Cause the "TAXI" and "FOR HIRE" signs to be illuminated during the hours of darkness only when the carriage is standing or plying for hire within the district.
- 6. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not tamper with or permit any person to tamper with any taximeter with which the carriage is provided, with the fittings thereof, or with the seals affixed thereto.
- 7. The driver of a hackney carriage shall, when plying for hire in any street and not actually hired:-
 - (a) proceed with reasonable speed to one of the stands fixed by Byelaw No. 16;
 - (b) if a stand, at the time of his arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, proceed to another stand;
 - (c) on arriving at a stand not already occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, station the carriage immediately behind the carriage or carriages on the stand and so as to face in the same direction;
 - (d) from time to time when any other carriage immediately in front is driven off or moved forward cause his carriage to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the carriage driven off or moved forward.
- 8. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage, when standing or plying for hire shall not, by calling out or otherwise, importune any person to hire such carriage and shall not cause or procure any other person for the purpose.
- 9.
 - (a) The driver of a hackney carriage shall behave in a civil and orderly manner and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons conveyed in or entering or alighting from the vehicle.
 - (b) The driver shall
 - (i) not without the express consent of the hirer smoke, drink or eat in the vehicle;

- (ii) not without the express consent of the hirer play any radio or sound reproducing instrument or equipment in the vehicle other than for the purpose of sending or receiving messages in connection with the operation of the vehicle;
 - (iii) at no time cause or permit the noise emitted by any radio or other previously mentioned equipment in the vehicle to be a source of nuisance or annoyance to any person, whether inside or outside the vehicle.
- 10. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage who has agreed or has been hired to be in attendance with the carriage at an appointed time and place shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause punctually attend with such carriage at such appointed time and place.
- 11. The driver of a hackney carriage when hired to drive to any particular destination shall, subject to any directions, given by the hirer, proceed to that destination by the shortest available route.
- 12. The driver of a hackney carriage shall at all times when standing or plying for hire have a completed copy of these byelaws available for production on demand by any person hiring the hackney carriage.
- 13. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in such carriage any greater number of persons than the number of persons specified on the plate affixed to the outside of the carriage.

For the purposes of this Byelaw two children under the age of ten years shall be counted as one person and a child aged ten years of over shall be counted as one person.

Provided nevertheless that:-

- (a) insofar as a vehicle licensed to carry not more than six persons is concerned;
 - (i) where a total of more than six children under the age of ten years are conveyed each child after the sixth shall be counted as one person;
 - (ii) up to two children under the age of one year may be disregarded in calculating the number of persons;
- (b) insofar as a vehicle licensed to carry more than six persons but not exceeding eight persons is concerned;
 - (i) where a total of more than six children under the age of ten years are conveyed each child after the sixth shall be counted as one person;
 - (ii) up to two children under the age of one year may be disregarded in calculating the number of persons.
 - (iii) the driver shall not allow to be conveyed in the front of a hackney carriage vehicle:-
 - (a) any child below the age of ten years; or
 - (b) more than one person above that age unless there are sufficient seat belts to enable the carriage of one or more than one person.

- (iv) the driver shall not, without the consent of the hirer of the vehicle, convey or permit to be conveyed any other person in that vehicle.
14. If a badge has been provided by the Council and delivered to the driver of a hackney carriage he shall, when standing or plying for hire, and when hired, wear that badge in such a position and manner as to be plainly visible.
15. The driver of a hackney carriage so constructed as to carry luggage shall, when requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire the carriage:-
- (a) convey a reasonable quantity of luggage;
 - (b) afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading;
 - (c) afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any building, station, or place at which he may take up or set down such person.

Provisions fixing the stands of hackney carriages.

16. Each of the several places specified in the following list shall be a stand for such number of hackney carriages as are specified in the list:-
- (a) Howard Street (opposite to Station entrance)
 - (b) Bus Station (adjacent to service Road Effingham Square)
 - (c) Corporation Street (north side - adjacent to "The Ring Shop")
 - (d) Market Place (north side - near the junction of Market Place)
(and Market Street and Corporation Street)

The following hackney carriage stands will operate between the hours of 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 .am. only except for (g) which will operate between 11.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. only:-

- (e) Drummond Street (Service Road)
on the south-west side from a point 55 metres south-east from its south-eastern junction with Henry Street for a distance of approximately 30 metres in a south-easterly direction
- (f) Brinsworth Street
 - (i) on the west side a distance of 11 metres north of its junction with Pool Green roundabout for approximately 12 metres in a northerly direction.
 - (ii) on the west side a distance of 38 metres north of its junction with Pool Green roundabout for approximately 18 metres in a northerly direction.
- (g) Masbrough Street
 - (i) on the south side from a point 95 metres east of its eastern junction with Providence Street in an easterly direction for approximately 18 metres.
 - (ii) on the south side from a point 138 metres east of

its junction with Providence Street in an easterly direction for approximately 6 metres.

(h) Ship Hill

south-west side - adjacent to Nightclub premises.

17. (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage the rate or rate prescribed by the existing table the rate or fare being calculated by distance unless the hirer expresses at the commencement of the hiring his desire to engage by time provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand or take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter save for any extra charge which is authorised by the existing table.
- (b) The driver shall, if requested by the hirer, provide him with a written receipt for the fare paid.

Fares for Distance

(i) (ii) (iii) - Refer to table of fares currently in force.

For the purpose of the extra charges hereinbefore authorised the following days in each year are classified as Bank Holidays:-

1. New Year's Day
2. Good Friday
3. Easter Monday
4. Spring Holiday
5. Late Summer Holiday
6. Christmas Day
7. Boxing Day

18. (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause a statement of the fares fixed by the Byelaw No. 17 to be exhibited inside the carriage in clearly distinguishable letters and figures.
- (b) The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage bearing a statement of fares in accordance with this Byelaw shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time while the carriage is plying or being used for hire.

Provisions securing the safe custody and delivery of any property accidentally left in hackney carriages, and fixing the charges to be made in respect thereof.

19. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall immediately after the termination of any hiring or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the carriage for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.

20. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, if any property accidentally left therein by any person who may have been conveyed in the carriage be found by or handed to him:-
- (a) carry it as soon as possible and in any event within forty-eight hours if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner to the Police Office, Main Street, Rotherham and leave it in the custody of the officer in charge of the office on his giving a receipt for it;
 - (b) be entitled to receive from any person to whom the property shall be redelivered an amount equal to five pence in the pound of its estimated value (or the fare for the distance from the place of finding to the Police Office whichever be the greater) but not more than five pounds.

Penalties

21. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding five pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction therefore.

Repeal of Byelaws

22. Byelaws
- (a) Sealed - 14th July, 1977
 - (b) Confirmed - 26th July, 1977
 - (c) Operative from - 5th September, 1977