

Appendix I

Licensed Vehicle Age and Emissions Policy

Licences will not normally be granted in respect of vehicles that were first registered (or, in the case of imported vehicles, manufactured) more than 5 years prior to the date that the application was made.

Furthermore, licences will not normally be renewed in respect of any licensed vehicle that was first registered (or, in the case of imported vehicles, manufactured) more than 10 years prior to the date of renewal (or 12 years in the case of purpose-built wheelchair accessible vehicles). This applies to the renewal of licences only.

A vehicle may be considered for licensing beyond these upper age limits if it is in 'exceptional condition'. The criteria for 'exceptional condition' are set out below.

Exceptional Condition Criteria

A vehicle will be considered to be in 'exceptional condition' if **all** of the following apply:

1. The vehicle must not have failed the Council's vehicle inspection (or standard MOT if the vehicle has not been licensed previously) on any significant item within the previous five years. For the purposes of this criteria, a significant item is defined as any item that would make the vehicle ineligible for a free partial retest had the item been identified as failing to meet the requirements during a standard MOT test.
2. The vehicle passes the Council's vehicle inspection.
3. The bodywork is in near perfect condition with no signs of panel age deterioration, dents, scratches, stone chips, or rust or any other abrasions that may detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle.
4. The general paint condition should show no signs of fading, dis-colouration or mismatching that may detract from the overall appearance of the vehicle.
5. The interior trim, panels, seating and carpets and upholstery are in excellent condition, clean and free from damage and dis-colouration.
6. The boot or luggage compartment is in good condition, clean and undamaged.
7. Passenger areas are free from damp or any other odours that may cause passenger discomfort.
8. The vehicle must be in excellent mechanical condition and in all respects safe and roadworthy, with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or bodywork.

9. The vehicle must have a full and complete service record to show that it has been properly serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's service specification.

Emissions Standards

In order to beneficially impact the borough's emissions, it is important to set standards that are common to all within the hackney carriage and private hire fleet, to ensure consistency and a level playing field for proprietors, operators and drivers. The age of vehicles and the exhaust emission specification are critical to the level of pollutants emitted.

In terms of expected emission standards, the Council requires that that all licensed vehicles which are submitted for:

- licensing for the first time until and including 31st March 2020, must meet or exceed Euro 5 emission standards
- licensing for the first time from 1st April 2020, must meet or exceed Euro 6 emission standards

Where vehicles do not meet the relevant emissions criteria, the proprietor may:

- Have the vehicle adapted / modified to meet the standard
- Change the fuel that is used to a cleaner alternative, such as bio diesel
- Replace the vehicle with one that meets the emission standard

Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)

The Council aims to encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles in the Borough, and will constantly examine the feasibility of introducing incentives for ULEVs. The Council recognise that purchasing ULEVs will have a significant economic impact on drivers, and the only reasonable incentives offered by the Council would be monetary. Therefore, work to incentivise licensed drivers to purchase ULEVs will be incorporated into the Council's annual fees and charges review, to understand how differential fees can be applied to those vehicles that meet required standards.

The Council are also undertaking separate work to improve the infrastructure charging network across the borough. A number of charging points have been installed in the centre of the borough, and significantly more will be deployed across the borough in the near future.