

Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter March 2017

New Taxi and Private Hire Policy Booklet

Our new policies come into effect on 1st April 2017. Stroud District Council's Taxi and Private Hire Policy booklet has been updated and contains all our policies and procedures for taxis and private hire licences as well as lots of useful information on national rules. You can find the booklet on our website www.stroud.gov.uk/taxipolicy. If you want a hard copy sent to you please give us a ring. From 1st April we will also have copies of the booklet at our desk in the reception at the Council offices so you can pick one up when you next call in.

You need to book for Safeguarding Training

From 1st April 2017 it is mandatory for all SDC licensed drivers to attend a safeguarding course. The course is being run throughout the County by the Gloucestershire Child Sexual Exploitation Unit. Currently, the course is free, however, at a later stage a charge may be introduced. The sessions are being held in the Stroud District Council Chamber at Ebley Mill on the dates to the right and will last about 3 hours. You must ring us to book onto a session. **You will not be able to just turn up on the day.**

Morning 11 th April 2017	Start time 10.00
Afternoon 9 th May 2017	Start time 13.00
Morning 17 th May 2017	Start time 10.00
Morning 22 nd May 2017	Start time 10.00
Afternoon 19 June 2017	Start time 13.00
Morning 28 th June 2017	Start time 10.00
Morning 6 th July 2017	Start time 10.00
Afternoon 26 th July 2017	Start time 13.00

You can check on our website to see which dates still have availability.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/taxisafeguarding>

CCTV

From 1st April 2017 you must get written approval from us if you want to have CCTV that records inside your vehicle. You will need to have a clear notice in your vehicle that tells customers that: 'CCTV is in operation'. If the system has a panic button that allows you to make a short audio recording you should add on your notice in your vehicle: 'audio recording may be made if there is a threat to the driver'. Under data protection law you must be registered with the ICO (Information Commissioner) if you want to use CCTV in your vehicle. You can register on-line through <https://ico.org.uk/registration/new>. The cost to register is £35 and is renewable annually.

Vehicle Age Policy

From 1st April 2017 any new application for a vehicle licence or an application to change a vehicle will be refused if your vehicle is more than 5 years old from date of first registration. This applies to both taxis and private hire vehicles. The new rules also mean that you will not be able to renew your licence if your vehicle is more than 10 years old from date of first registration. However, there is a period of 2 years grace for vehicles that were already licensed with us before 1 April 2017. There are exemptions for wheelchair accessible vehicles and elite vehicles in excellent condition. We have been asked for some guidance on elite vehicles. This exemption is aimed at high end luxury vehicles that are generally roomier with high quality comfort and design. To the right are some of vehicles that we consider elite.

Examples of Elite Vehicles:

Audi A7, A8

Bentley

BMW 5 series (2010 onwards)

BMW 7 series

Chrysler 300

Jaguar XJ and XF

Lexus LS

Mercedes Benz E and S Class

Rolls Royce

Tesla

Medicals

From 1st April 2017 we will only accept medicals that have been completed by your own GP or by a medical practitioner that has full access to your medical records.

Medical Conditions

If you develop a medical condition and/or you are having treatment or an operation that may impact on your fitness to drive, you must let us know. We may need you to provide a letter from your doctor or consultant.

Do you drive a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle?

If yes you need to be aware that that from 6th of April 2017 you could face a fine of up to £1,000 if you refuse to transport wheelchair users in their wheelchair or attempt to charge them extra. You also must provide passengers with appropriate assistance.

Coming in to see us

If you want to see us please ring and make an appointment first. We are not available for calls or appointments on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons after 12.00. However, you can contact us any time by email. Telephone: 01453 754440 Email: licensing@stroud.gov.uk Web: www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis