

Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter May 2018

GDPR - Your Personal Data

You may have heard a lot lately about GDPR. GDPR is all about protecting your personal data. It effects how we store and share the personal information that we hold about you . We have a privacy statement on our website which explains why we keep your personal details, how long we keep it for and who we share it with. Here is a link to our webpage www.stroud.gov.uk/privacynotice. Section 1 to 10 is the Council's general privacy notice and section 15 gives details for the Licensing Service. The privacy notice explains that we only share your information with other agencies and organisations for the purposes of checking your suitability to hold a licence, checking validity of documents, safeguarding purposes and for prevention of crime and fraud.

Public Register

By law we must have a public register of all licences that we issue. This register will include your name and plate or badge number but does not show your address or any contact details. You can see our registers on our website <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/licensingregisters>

Taxi and Private Hire Contact Details Webpage

We have a webpage for members of the public to see a list of taxi and private hire companies and their contact details. Our reports show that this page gets a lot of views from the public looking to book a taxi or private hire vehicle.

We only include companies on this page that have given us consent to put their contact details on the website. However, in many cases this consent was given to us a long time ago. In order to be sure that we are GDPR compliant we are shutting down the page and will be putting on a new one. If you want your contact details to be included on the new page please complete and return the attached consent form with the details that you want shown. You can either post, email or drop the form off to us using the contact details overleaf. The form is also on our website on the taxi webpage www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis so if you want you can fill it in on your computer and email it to us.

Consultation On Implementation of Section 167 Wheelchair Accessible List

The Department for Transport has issued statutory guidance to Licensing Authorities recommending that they implement Section 167 of the Equality Act 2010 which states that a Licensing Authority may maintain a formal list of wheelchair accessible taxis and private hire vehicles. The drivers of vehicles included on that list will have specific duties as detailed below:

- To carry the passenger whilst in the wheelchair
- Not to make any additional charge for doing so
- If the person chooses to sit in a passenger seat, to carry the wheelchair
- To take such steps as are reasonably necessary to ensure the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort
- To give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonably required

Failure by the driver of the wheelchair accessible vehicle to meet these duties can lead to prosecution.

A medical exemption certificate can be applied for. The driver will need to complete an application form and obtain a letter from their own GP stating the medical reasons why the driver cannot comply with the duties.

Stroud District Council is considering implementing the above and is currently consulting on this matter. We propose that any vehicle licensed by Stroud District that can carry a passenger in a wheelchair will be included on the list.

We seek your comments on this proposal. More information about Section 167 of the Equality Act 2010 and our proposed addition to Stroud District 's Taxi and Private Hire Policy is available on our website at: www.stroud.gov.uk/taxiconsultation You can submit your comments by email to licensing@stroud.gov.uk or by post using the below address.

The end date for comments is Friday 27th July 2018.

Assistance Dogs

Don 't forget that under the Equality Act 2010 the following duties already apply for all taxi and private hire drivers:

- To carry a passenger 's guide, hearing or assistance dog
- Allow the dog to remain with the passenger
- Not to make any additional charge for doing so

Contact Us:

If you want to come in and 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. You can also contact us by email.

Telephone: 01453 754440 Email: licensing@stroud.gov.uk Web: www.stroud.gov.uk/taxis
Licensing Section, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4UB