

Welcome to the Online Driving Forward!

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In a move to increase efficiency and improve our service to you, our newsletter Driving Forward will now only be published ONLINE or emailed to you directly.

Sending paper copies is costly and time consuming.

Moving to electronic methods should help to get information to you more quickly and more often. In the future we aim to carry out a lot more communication via email or online eventually moving to online applications and renewals so we can finally say goodbye to the many paged application forms.

To help us move towards the future – please let us have your email address.

The easiest way to do this is to email us at licensing@birmingham.gov.uk with the following:

- Your name
- Your licence number(s) (please state all – including vehicle / badge and operator where appropriate).

Officers will also be asking you to provide an email address when you come in for your appointments – so if you don't yet have email – please set one up.

Pre appointment Checklist:

Do you have an appointment?

Have you got all the necessary paperwork? e.g.:

- DBS Documentation / identity documents
- DVLA licence check code (see below)
- Vehicle log book
- Completed application form
- Operator form

Unfortunately many people arrive for their appointment without checking these basic things. This wastes time at the counter and causes delays for others.

Payments

Since moving to the new offices, we no longer take cash payments. This is part of our move to streamline the service and increase efficiencies. By not accepting cash payments, the

customer.

Assistance Dogs:

There have been an unacceptable number of instances where drivers have refused to carry assistance dogs in their vehicles. Complaints of this kind are taken very seriously and drivers will be prosecuted

Keep Informed

Consultations will be posted the Licensing pages of the City Councils website and the consultation will be on Be Heard: Birmingham's Consultation Database for Birmingham's public sector. This means you can participate in consultations about local issues that interest you. Using Be Heard means you can make your views known when decisions are being made about things that affect you and the area you live in. Go to either <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/licensing>

or www.birminghambeheard.org.uk

If you prefer to complete the survey in writing – please email

licensing@birmingham.gov.uk and a printable version will be sent to you.

Trade Liaison Meetings

These meetings are held every 2 months. The purpose of the forum is to enable two-way communication between Birmingham City Council Licensing Service, the City Council's Transportation Division and the hackney carriage and private hire trade. Representatives may use it to seek information from Licensing or Transportation, or to convey matters of concern on behalf of those they represent. Birmingham City Council officers may use the forum to consult with representatives of hackney carriage and private hire drivers and operators and to convey information or discuss matters of mutual concern. The full Terms of Reference can also be found online.

The minutes of the Trade Liaison Meetings are available on the licensing pages of the website.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20107/taxi_and_private_hire/294/information_for_taxi_drivers_private_hire_drivers_and_operators

air quality has an impact on general population health and child development. The evidence also shows that diesel vehicle emissions are the most prevalent and impactful source of health -affecting

Help for Drivers

- x Government plug-in grants of up to £4,500 for purchasers of new electric and hybrid vehicles and up to £7,500 towards the cost of electric taxis are available
- x The Government's Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme will fund up to 75% (capped at £500 including VAT) to pay for the installation of a dedicated domestic recharging unit.
- x Individual vehicle manufacturer scrappage schemes for drivers replacing older vehicles with newer cleaner vehicles.
- x LEVC (formerly LTC) offers a Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) scheme for taxi drivers to spread the cost of its new TX electric taxi and is also making second hand TX4 vehicles (with Euro 6 diesel engines) available on a PCP scheme.
- x We have introduced a dual badge for hackney carriage drivers to enable them to drive private hire vehicles. Hackney drivers who do not want to invest in a

DUAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE BADGES

