

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing

Frequently asked questions

Q : I have a vehicle currently licensed by Gateshead Council and due for renewal. It is seven and a half years old now. Can I renew the licence for that vehicle, and if so, how long will it last?

A : You can renew the licence for that vehicle and the licence will be issued for a period of one year.

However, the Council's policy states, "No vehicle more than eight years old will be permitted to continue as a Hackney Carriage".

This means that once you have renewed your licence when the vehicle is seven and a half years old you will not be permitted to renew it again when that licence expires. If you wish to continue being licensed at that point, an application will have to be made to change the vehicle to one which is less than three years old.

However, if you want the Council to consider licensing the vehicle beyond this point, you will need to demonstrate that it is in exceptional condition, and that it is fit to be licensed for a further 12 months. This will be considered on a case by case basis, taking into account all the relevant circumstances.

Q : I have an existing licence issued by Gateshead Council. When will these new conditions affect me?

A : The new conditions will affect your existing licence when you renew it.

If you apply for a new licence or change your vehicle, the conditions will apply to that new licence.

Q : I want to apply for a licence. Will these new conditions affect me?

A : Yes. Any new application will have to comply with the relevant conditions.

Q : Can I get a Hackney Carriage vehicle licence for a saloon car?

A : No. In 1999 Gateshead Council adopted a policy of not issuing any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences for saloon cars. The licences in existence at that time can be renewed, and those vehicles can at present be replaced by new saloon cars. However no new licences will be issued for saloon cars to be used as Hackney Carriages, and these new conditions do not affect that policy.

Q : Some passengers with certain physical conditions say that they prefer to travel in a saloon car rather than a wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage. Will you take their views into account?

A : The overriding objective of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licensing is to ensure the public safety, including persons with special requirements.

At present there are more than eighty saloon cars licensed by Gateshead Council as Hackney Carriages. Whether that number is adequate for the needs of the travelling public is a matter that the Licensing Authority will keep under review.

The Licensing Authority will continue to take account of the views of focus groups and representative bodies in determining its policies for the future.