

# Plate Exemption Policies from Neighbouring Authorities + Southampton and London

BCP Council (2021)

**TOP OF THE RANGE, UNDER 5 YEARS AND STILL HAVE INTERNAL PLATE.**

## **Executive/Speciality Private Hire Vehicles requirements**

Executive Private Hire Vehicle licences will only be granted to vehicles which comply with sections 1, 2 and 4 below. Limousine or Party Private Hire Vehicle Licenses will only be granted to vehicles which comply with 1, 3 & 4 below

### **1.Executive/limousine/party**

1.1 The vehicle shall be of a make and model which the Council considers appropriate for an Exemption Notification. The Council may consult any person or organisation as it considers appropriate before deciding whether an Exemption Notification shall be granted in respect of any vehicle.

1.2 Without prejudice to the generality of Clause 1 above, the vehicle shall comply with all of the following minimum requirements:

- a) Be a recognised model of a four door saloon motor car or people carrier but **not** a hatchback, kit car or vehicle substantively altered in appearance or modified in any way except as within the section Limousines/Party Vehicles below.
- b) The vehicle interior and exterior shall be of the very highest quality in design and use of materials available and in exceptional condition.
- c) The vehicle shall not be designed or adapted for off road purposes.
- d) Vehicles manufactured as people carriers may be considered for an exemption to display the plate. However, the vehicle shall be of the highest specification, quality and condition. Each application will be considered on its own merits. Only vehicles on the approved executive list shall be considered for licensing as an executive vehicle.

1.3 Any vehicle presented for licensing for the first time shall not be older than five years on the day that the fully and correctly completed application is received with the appropriate fee. (Limousines and Party vehicles shall be considered for exemption of this condition in exceptional circumstances where the vehicle is in immaculate condition).

1.4 Only vehicles that satisfy Clauses 2 (a) to 2 (d) above, are on the approved executive list and at the top of the range within the manufactures fleet of vehicles, may be considered

for a Exemption Notice, not to display the vehicle plate, which will be at the Council's discretion.

## **2 Executive**

2.1 The makes and models of vehicle which **will** be considered for licensing as an executive vehicle are:

- BMW 7 SERIES
- MERCEDES S CLASS
- MERCEDES E CLASS
- LEXUS GS and LS
- JAGUAR I PACE (electric vehicle)
- JAGUAR XJ SWB and LWB
- TESLA Model S (electric vehicle)
- AUDI A8

## **4. Identification signs**

Executive, Limousine and Party Private Hire vehicles are not required to display a vehicle plate to rear or side identification panels.

## East Devon (2022)

**NO POLICY – NOT ALLOWED**

## South Somerset

**EXCLUSIVELY BOOKED UPFRONT FOR A DEFINED PERIOD AND INTERNAL PLATE REQUIRED**

6.157. It is the view of the licensing authority that some private hire vehicles that provide limited, non-public driving services (e.g. executive chauffeur services, stretched limousines, vintage and other specialist vehicles etc) are -

- (a) self-evidently not a hackney carriage; and/or
- (b) do not need to be readily distinguished from a hackney carriage by the additional specific signage set out at pp 6.151.

6.158. The licensing authority believes that such services are usually exclusively booked up front for a defined period or journey (typically going outside the borough) and such that the vehicle is not available for immediate hire. Also, these services usually offer a degree of prestige, anonymity and/or have a legitimate business requirement to be more discretely marked.

6.159. For this reason, and subject to all other licensing requirements being met, it is the policy of the licensing authority to offer private hire vehicles used to provide exclusively

limited, non-public driving services an exemption from the requirements set out at pp 6.140 and pp 6.151. However, so that any such vehicle can be identified as a licensed vehicle, the licensing authority will require, on condition, that a licence plate of specified size, shape and design (see **appendix F**) be clearly displayed in the front windscreen of the vehicle.

6.160. For clarity and distinction between different categories of vehicles, this alternative arrangement shall not apply to any private hire vehicle that undertakes any general public work. In such circumstances, standard plates in accordance with the requirements set out at pp 6.140 and pp 6.151 must be displayed.

## Wiltshire 2018

### **NO SPECIFIC POLICY**

#### **P31 Exemption from displaying vehicle plate/door signs**

Under Section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the council, which issues the licence, may exempt a licensed private hire vehicle from the need to display a plate and the driver from wearing his identity badge. Owners who wish to apply for this exemption should contact their local licensing office.

If a written exemption notice has been issued it must be carried in the vehicle at all times. Failure to do so will invalidate the exemption.

If, after an exemption notice is issued, the circumstances of the exemption change, such as a change of use for the vehicle, the licence holder must inform the council in order that the exemption can be reconsidered.

The vehicle licence holder will be required to make a written application for an exemption to include:

- the plate and index number of the licensed vehicle.
- the nature of the work/business the vehicle will be engaged in.
- the reasons why the exemption is requested.

The main consideration will always be the safety of the general public, but consideration will also be given to the nature of the work the vehicle will be used for and whether it needs to be identifiable to the public or not.

## New Forest

### **INTERNAL PLATE AND EXTRA CONDITIONS**

#### **Additional Policy for the Determination of Applications for Private Hire Vehicle Plate Exemption**

Applications should be made on the appropriate form. Each application will be considered on its individual merits by an appropriately authorised officer of the Council. Each vehicle will be inspected by the officer determining the application.

#### **Vehicles**

In view of the vast numbers of makes and models of vehicles available it is preferred not to produce a definitive list of vehicle makes and models that might be approved has not been prepared. The granting of an exemption will be based on the cost, reputation, specification, appearance, perception and superior comfort levels of a vehicle. However, the following will be minimum requirements in relation to any vehicle in respect of which an exemption is sought:

1. Executive saloon, hatchback or estate vehicles designed to be licensed for 4 passengers, allowing sufficient space for adult passengers to travel comfortably.
2. Engine size 1900cc or greater.
3. A range of vehicles capable of carrying in excess of 4 passengers will be considered provided they meet a higher specification for that make and model.
4. An exemption will only be considered for a vehicle that can seat more than 4 passengers only where this is provided with comfort. Each seat must be of adequate dimensions and must permit direct access into and out of the vehicle without the need to move, remove, fold down, pass over or slide any seat. No vehicle modifications from the manufacturer's specification are acceptable.
5. The vehicle must have a minimum specification of at least air conditioning, climate control, electric windows, central locking and headrests for each passenger.
6. The vehicle must be in immaculate condition, without damage, dents, defects or blemishes to the external bodywork, trim or seating.

#### **Type of work**

Applications will only be considered from the proprietors of vehicles which undertake exclusively "executive" type work, with all bookings to be of an executive nature and made under written contract (which may include bookings made electronically and by email). For example:

1. Corporate bookings to transport employees and/or clients on corporate business journeys; and/or
2. Airport and other 'special' journeys where the client specifically requests a vehicle of a prestige specification at the time of booking and pays a recognisable higher fee for that service compared to that charged for a non exempt vehicle.

### **Additional Conditions Relating to Private Hire Vehicles with a Plate Exemption**

The following conditions will apply to any private hire vehicle which is granted an exemption from the requirement to display the rear licence plate, and are in addition to the standard private hire vehicle licensing conditions applying at the time:

1. The vehicle will only be used for “executive” work, where the booking has been made by written contract and not for any other type of private hire work.
2. The following must be carried in the vehicle at all times and must be produced upon request to an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer:
  - A) The exemption notice.
  - B) The private hire vehicle licence plate.
  - C) The vehicle licence conditions.
3. The (small) internal vehicle identification badge will be displayed in the front window of the vehicle at all times.
4. The vehicle will NOT have a meter fitted.
5. The vehicle will not display any company or third party numbers, adverts or promotional material of any type.

### **Additional Conditions for Drivers of Exempted Private Hire Vehicles**

1. Male drivers are required to wear a suit or jacket and trousers plus shirt and a tie at all times. Female drivers must follow an equivalent dress code, generally recognised as ‘smart office’. This dress code must be followed at all times the vehicle is used to undertake a booking or contract. Jackets may be removed where weather conditions require it.

2. The driver of an exempted vehicle is not required to wear their driver’s identification badge, but must carry their badge with them at all times.

**Please Note:** Drivers of private hire vehicles that do not display a private hire vehicle plate are not exempt from the seat belt legislation and **MUST** wear a seat belt while driving the vehicle at all times.

## Southampton

### **DISCRETION OF SERVICE MANAGER**

In exceptional circumstances, the Service Manager for Licensing may determine that a vehicle is a specialist vehicle, such as, but not exclusively, stretched limousines, classic cars and other unusual vehicles to be used for private hire.

Where the Service Manager for Licensing determines that a vehicle is a specialist vehicle, and that it is intended to be used in the circumstances described in section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a notice may be issued of the suspending the requirement for the display of the rear licence plate in those circumstances, as required by condition 9.1 above.

Additionally, in the case of a specialist vehicle, the Service Manager for Licensing may, at his or her absolute discretion, suspend or amend all or some of the provisions of the following conditions:

- 3.3.5 (right hand drive);
- 4.2 (age of vehicle);
- 5.1 (colour of vehicle);
- 8.2 (city identity stickers)
- 23.1 Taxi cameras

## TfL (2021)

### **NON DISPLAY OF FRONT PLATE ONLY (DIFFERENT LEGISLATION)**

Displaying the licence discs on a PHV is important in terms of public safety and reassurance. They indicate to the travelling public that prior to being licensed the vehicle has undergone checks to ensure their safety. It also allows passengers to check that the vehicle provided matches that detailed in the booking confirmation provided by the operator. However, we recognise that in exceptional circumstances the display of the discs may cause a safety concern.

Section 10(3) of the PHV Act allows TfL to exempt a vehicle from having to display the front vehicle licence disc. The requirement to display the rear licence disc does not apply to any vehicle granted an exemption under section 10(3) of the PHV Act<sup>6</sup>. There is no power to exempt a vehicle from displaying the rear disc only. In granting an exemption TfL will need to be satisfied that the service being provided makes it a safety concern for the discs to be displayed. Applicants must make their case in writing detailing the reasons for the exemption and include supporting evidence from customers and/or the operator(s) they work for or intend to work for. Exemption applications must be made using form [PHV/302](#).

An exemption will only be granted where there is a genuine operational or safety reason, and where we are certain that the safety of the public will not be compromised as a result.

In coming to a decision, the following factors will be taken into consideration:

- Whether there are exceptional circumstances that cause the passenger and/or driver to experience safety or security concerns that they would not have if discs were not attached to the vehicle; and

- The nature of the work to be carried out.

We will only grant an exemption where we are satisfied that the vehicle will be used exclusively for the purpose specified in the application. Exempted vehicles found to be providing a service other than that specified in the application may have their exemption removed.

We will also consider an exemption where the design of the vehicle prevents the front disc being displayed e.g. the windscreen is too small to accommodate the disc without impacting on the driver's vision.

A decision to refuse to grant an exemption is final and there is no statutory right of appeal.

The exemption is only valid for the duration of the licence applied for and a new exemption application must be made with each annual licence application. Moreover, each further application for an exemption will be treated on its own merits and no guarantee can be given that a further exemption will be granted.

Applications for exemptions from displaying licence discs may be in respect of individual vehicles only.

Applications for exemptions relating to a fleet of vehicles are not be allowed.

All vehicles granted an exemption from displaying the licence discs will continue to be included in the TfL online [licence checker](#).

[Apply for executive vehicle status | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

[private-hire-executive-policy-2022.pdf \(eastleigh.gov.uk\)](#)

[Executive Hire Vehicle conditions appendix d.pdf \(lichfielddc.gov.uk\)](#)

[Exempt Private Hire vehicle policy \(basingstoke.gov.uk\)](#)

[Exec Vehicles.pdf \(breckland.gov.uk\)](#)

[Application to License Private Hire Vehicle - Appendix 2.pdf \(southlakeland.gov.uk\)](#)

[Private hire vehicle plate exemption policy \(denbighshire.gov.uk\)](#)

[Executive Travel or Chauffeuring Licensing Requirements.pdf \(sthelens.gov.uk\)](#)

[dcc-executive-car-exemption-policy-July-2015.pdf \(derby.gov.uk\)](#)