

POLICY FOR GRANTING EXECUTIVE PLATE EXEMPTIONS UNDER S75(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

- 1) This policy provides guidance that will normally be applied in relation to any application for a plate exemption notice. Whilst each application will be considered on its merits regard will be had to this policy as part of any relevant assessment. Failure to accord with any one or more requirements of this policy may therefore result in an application being refused.
- 2) Applications for an exemption notice from displaying private hire vehicle plates will only be considered for individual vehicles. Applications for exemptions for a fleet will not be allowed.
- 3) A vehicle to which an application relates will need to be inspected by an authorised officer to ensure that it is suitable for the work it is expected to undertake in advance of any determination for an exemption notice being made. The proprietor of the vehicle will therefore be expected to make arrangements with the Council's authorised officer for such an inspection to take place.
- 4) Any application should be made by the proprietor(s) who hold the private hire licence for the vehicle in question.
- 5) An application for a plate exemption will not be determined without the provision to the Council of a completed application form from the proprietor(s). A copy of the application form is available from the Licensing Team upon request.
- 6) In particular, it is important that the completed application form clearly identifies the occasion(s) for which the exemption is being sought.
- 7) The completed application form should also be accompanied by any supporting documentation that the proprietor considers appropriate to support the application.
- 8) The Council may require an applicant to provide such additional documentation as it considers appropriate to allow an informed decision to be made. This will normally be one or a combination of the following but not limited to:
 - i) a business proposal for the type of work and amount of work they are expecting to undertake if an exemption certificate is granted
 - ii) the past 12 months financial records showing the amount of work they have undertaken which they believe fits into the executive bracket, and reasons why they now require an exemption certificate
 - iii) if they are a current exemption certificate holder the financial accounts showing the percentage of executive work undertaken.
 - iv) reasons of security i.e. Transporting high ranking officers on and off Blandford Camp. Any request under this section should be accompanied by written confirmation from the client of need for security or privacy.

Dependant up on the information provided will depend on whether an exemption notice is granted, and in the event that an exemption notice is granted; whether the exemption notice applies to limited occasions of work being undertaken or applies when the exemption notice is carried in the vehicle.

- 9) In assessing any application the Licensing and Orders Committee will have particular regard towards the following information:
- i) vehicles should be of a standard or comfort equal to or above luxury brands of vehicles such as S & E Class Mercedes Benz, 7 Series BMW, Lexus 'GS' or 'LS' models, Audi A8 series, Jaguar, Rolls Royce and Bentley saloons. This list is not meant to be exhaustive and it is recommended that applicants check with the Licensing Office regarding the suitability of a vehicle before making an application.
 - ii) Applications for people carrier style vehicles will not normally be accepted.
 - iii) The vehicle is in pristine condition with no visible defects, dents or blemishes to the external body work or internal trim and is under 5 years old.
 - iv) The vehicle is used ONLY for work that is applied on the exemption certificate.
- 10) Where an application is successful the exemption notice will be issued as soon as is reasonably practicable after the decision is made. Every exemption notice will specify the occasion(s) to which it applies.
- 11) During those occasions where a vehicle is exempted from displaying its external plate by virtue of an exemption notice it will also be exempted from displaying its internal plate.
- 12) Irrespective of when an exemption notice is granted the initial exemption notice will expire on the same day as the expiration of the private hire vehicle licence for that vehicle. A new exemption notice must be applied for on an annual basis.
- 13) There is no right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court against any decision made by the Licensing & Orders Committee to refuse to issue an exemption notice.