



Licensing Section
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 Our ref: Draft Taxi Policy Consultation
 Your ref:
 Date: 1.5.12

Consultation on Dover District Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Dover District Council is committed to consulting with the community on a wide range of issues. This consultation is about our policy regarding hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

Consultation Overview

Dover District Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators within the Dover District area under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 as amended by the Public Health Act 1875.

The current Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy was adopted in December 2008 and, in line with other Licensing Policies, is due for review. The revised draft brings together a number of different policies and procedures, which have been developed on a piecemeal basis over the years into one single document which covers the whole Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing regime.

Who are we consulting with?

- Dover Federation of Licensed Taxi Operators
- Taxi and Private Hire Drivers & Proprietors
- Private Hire Vehicle Operators
- Kent Police
- Kent County Council
- East Kent Coastal PCT
- Department for Transport
- Network Rail
- Disability Groups
- Transport User Groups
- Town Centre Management
- General Public
- Area Forums
- Local transport providers
- Dover, Deal & Sandwich Town Councils
- Parish Councils
- Dover Harbour Board
- Age Concern & Centres for the Retired

Why are we consulting?

To give the hackney carriage and private hire trade and other interested parties the opportunity to be involved in the review of the conditions and policies.

What are the key changes?

The proposed areas of significant change are:

- Amendments to the current age, mileage and engine size limits for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles
- Ability to require more frequent vehicle testing
- Requirement for taximeters in private hire vehicles to be tested & tariff cards displayed
- 'Pre booked only' signage on private hire vehicles
- Inclusion of stretched limousines within the licensing regime
- New knowledge test and communications test
- Revised guidance on relevance of convictions and cautions
- Introduction of a code of good conduct
- Introduction of a revised dress code
- Revised vehicle specifications for hackney carriage & private hire vehicles
- Amended application procedures
- Inclusion of hackney carriage byelaws in licensing policy
- Revisions to private hire operator licence conditions
- Revised enforcement policy statement
- Introduction of a penalty points scheme
- Payment refunds to be discretionary not automatic

The revised policy can be downloaded from www.dover.gov.uk/licensing

Alternatively, you can request a printed copy by calling us on **01304 872295**, by email or by writing to us at the address below.

How do I respond?

You can respond to the consultation in the following ways:-

Email to licensing@dover.gov.uk

By Post to

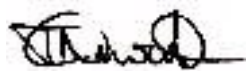
John Newcombe
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White Cliffs Business Park,
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The **Closing Date** for responses is **25th July 2012**

What happens after the consultation?

After the consultation we will publish a summary of the responses on the Council's website (www.dover.gov.uk) together with any comments which will be considered by the Council before determining and adopting the revised policy for 2012-2015. It is expected that the revised policy will take effect from **October 2012**.

Yours sincerely



John Newcombe
Licensing Team Leader