

(CCC) Licensing

To clarify the situation expediently in your licensing authority it is necessary to establish your current taxi & PHV licensing status via a Freedom of Information (FOI) request below.

Responses will be subject to the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and managed myself as the LPHCA Data Controller.

"I hereby request, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

a) Confirmation that licensing arrangements are currently in place for the licensing of taxi & PHV

- 1. Drivers*
- 2. Vehicles*
- 3. Operators*

b) Confirmation as to what level of arrangements are in place to meet this statutory requirement

- 1. Normal*
- 2. Reduced*
- 3. None*

Response:

In response to point A, I can confirm the following;

In the current climate, all arrangements in place for the licensing of taxi and Private Hire licences are completed via e-mail, telephone communication, and some face to face appointments.

Vehicles - Cambridge City Council are processing new and renewal vehicle applications via e-mail. Proprietors are able to book a certificate of compliance test with the council garage. On the rare occasion a vehicle inspection must be completed by one of the enforcement officers, we can arrange a social distanced visit, in which vehicle is inspected outside the council office (this was previously done before Covid-19 pandemic restrictions).

Change of ownership for vehicle appointments are completed within the office face to face, however all documentation is gathered via e-mail prior to appointment.

Drivers – Cambridge City Council are able to complete driver licence renewals. Renewal documentation from licence holder is received via e-mail or post. We ask that renewal applications are sent to us at least 2 weeks prior to expiry to ensure that badge and licence can be sent to them in a timely manner as officers are still working from home and office attendance is not at full capacity.

FOI Ref

7813

Response sent

19 Oct 20

To date we have been able to sign up new drivers due to the requirement for the applicant to complete a Safeguarding and Knowledge test. Previously, prospective

applicants would attend a class room based session followed by a computer test. Due to Covid- 19 restrictions and guidance (social distancing) we have been unable to administer these tests. We are currently in the process of signing up to remote invigilation supplier. This will enable prospective applicants to complete our Safeguarding and Knowledge test.

Operators - Cambridge City Council are processing Operator applications, and conducting inspections remotely.

In response to point A, in order to meet the above statutory requirements, the level of arrangements have been normal, with the exemption of the ability to process New Driver applications. Once we are able to safely administer the Safeguarding and Knowledge tests for prospective licence holders, Cambridge City Council will be at a normal capacity/arrangement level.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk