

From: Licensing Team <Licensing@surreyheath.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 October 2025 12:05

Subject: Consultation - Surrey Heath's Draft Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2026-2031

Good afternoon,

A 6-week consultation is now underway for our updated draft Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Please submit your comments to licensing@surreyheath.gov.uk, the deadline for submitting comments is 07/12/2025.

The Council's current taxi policy 2021-2026 is due for review. An updated Policy has been drafted taking into account the Department for Transport (DfT) 2023 best practice guidance to local authorities, focusing on the safety of the travelling public, including protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm. It is now time to consult on the updated Policy.

In addition to the Council's current policies and procedures, a number of changes have been introduced including the following:

- Licensed driver medical frequency changed to DVLA group 2 standard for PSV and HGV every 5 years, previously every 3 years
- Conditions added to driver and operator conditions to include compliance with the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022
- Minimum age of vehicle presented for a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence changed from under 3 years to under 5 years
- Zero emission and purpose-built wheelchair accessible vehicle maximum age restriction removed, providing the vehicle continues to meet the Council's mechanical standards.
- Meters in Private Hire Vehicles prohibited
- Remove the condition for a fire extinguisher in hackney carriage and private hire vehicles
- Add a condition, before commencing work a walk round safety and condition check of the vehicle is conducted
- Private hire operator licences will be issued for 5 years

Details of these additional requirements can be found by following this link to the [draft Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Policy](#).

Kind regards,

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