



**Knowsley Council**

Mr Steven Mercer  
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Our Ref: F2016.06.2412

Date: 22 September 2016

Dear Mr Mercer,

**Your Freedom of Information request F2016.06.2412**

We have looked into your request for information concerning the numbers of taxi and private hire licensees between the years 2010-2015 and also the current numbers of licensees.

As you have not stated on which specific date you wished the snapshot to be based on and, as the figures for 2010-2012 were not recorded in a retrievable format, I am afraid that some of the data you have requested is not held.

However I have provided below a list of what data is available between 2010-August 2012 and from then on snapshot figures from August 2012, to date the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016, are available for all five licence types. All are attached at "*Response to Question 1.xlsx*".

For question 2 and in respect of "new" applicants in progress again as of today the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Private Hire Drivers	283
Private Hire Operators	3
Private Hire Vehicles	150
Hackney Vehicles	0
Hackney Drivers	2

There is of course no guarantee that all of those applicants will complete and obtain licences but with that proviso the figures are correct as of today.

In respect of your last request for a percentage change in the numbers of licensees since the change from a Knowledge Test to a Driver Essential Skills test I cannot provide such a figure as that information is not retrievable. The reason for this is that we do not record why someone applies.

Whilst it is obvious that since the Deregulation Act 2015 changes took effect the numbers of licensees have grown overall it is impossible for the Council to state if it is the operators taking up licences here as part of a set of operations on Merseyside or the type of Knowledge test (or a mixture of both) which has led to

the increase in particular in Private Hire Driver applicants, which increase is shown clearly in the attached *Response to Question1.xls*.

It is also clearly the case that that the new vehicle test frequency [< 8 years old 1 test per year, >8 years old 2 tests per year] has affected the number of private hire vehicle applicants as it more closely matches the frequencies of tests within the Liverpool and Sefton neighbouring area.

If you need further information please see contact details below.

Regards,

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