

Glen Bolton

The person dealing with this matter is:

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Licensing Authority
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7th February 2019

Our reference: PSR/LIC/JB/FOI/Bolton/14384

Your reference:

If you need this information in another format or language please contact the sender.

Dear Mr Bolton,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

I refer to your freedom of information request for the following:

I am fully aware of the criminal checks taxi drivers coming from Europe have done via Europol and Eurojust.

I would like to know what checks are done for taxi drivers arriving from outside Europe, places such as Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, please tell me the process from start to finish.

Newcastle City Council has determined that an Enhanced Disclosure provided by the Disclosure & Barring Services (DBS) is required by all new applicants for a hackney carriage and or private hire driver licence. Once licensed, drivers will be required to undergo a further criminal record check at each three yearly renewal of their licence.

An Enhanced Disclosure provides details of all convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer. The Enhanced Check will include information held on the DBS Children and Adult Barred Lists of those considered unsuitable or banned from working with children or adults. In addition, where appropriate the Disclosure will share with the Authority other relevant information disclosed at the Chief Police Officer(s) discretion.

Where an applicant has been continually absent from the United Kingdom and Channel Islands for 6 months or more an enhanced DBS disclosure in itself will be insufficient to satisfy the Authority that the applicant is a fit and proper person, as the DBS does not routinely provide criminal record information from non-UK countries.

Applicants are therefore required to provide a Certificate of Good Conduct or equivalent document from each country where they have been resident/domiciled.

A Certificate of Good Conduct or equivalent document is an extract from the judicial record or administrative authority in the relevant country testifying to good conduct and/or to any criminal convictions recorded against the individual.

A five year UK history is required to the Disclosure & Barring Service application. Where this is not achievable a certificate of good conduct is required for the outstanding period.

Additional consultation is undertaken with Northumbria Police to review local records for relevant intelligence and the PENTIP system in relation to motoring convictions that may not be detailed to DVLA or DBS return.

If you are unhappy with the information supplied you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Please send details of your request for review to the following address:

Corporate Information Governance Officer
Chief Executive's Office
Civic Centre
Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 2BN
Telephone: 0191 211 6644
E-mail: freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk

If you are still unhappy with how the Council has handled your request you can write to the Information Commissioner asking for an assessment to be made. Contact details are as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545745
E-mail: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or e mail address.

Yours sincerely



Licensing Manager