



## Outcomes of Private Hire Consultation

Following a consultation on private hire matters which ran from October 2010 to January 2011, a number of changes will be implemented from late 2011 onwards.

London Taxi & Private Hire has analysed the results of the consultation and spent a considerable amount of time undertaking further consultation and engagement with the private hire and taxi trade and the police to understand the impact of introducing some of the changes.

Most of the changes relate to the introduction of additional requirements for private hire operators, particularly those operating from shared premises and will seek to address a number of key issues raised with TfL over the past few years. Some items for private hire drivers are still under review and will be announced separately.

Throughout the consultation process, the overriding aim has been to ensure that any changes strike the right balance between improving safety for the travelling public whilst meeting the Governments desired objective of adopting a pragmatic approach to licensing without over regulating.

A summary of the changes due to take place is as follows:

Private Hire Operators
New measures will be introduced for shared operator premises. Applications will only be accepted if certain conditions are met.
All applications for a private hire operating centre will require proof that planning permission has been granted, applied for, or is not required.
Private hire operating centres within a shared premises will be required to have a designated booking area within the premises. This area will be named on the licence.
Operators within shared premises will be required to provide a booking 'receipt' to passengers
Private hire operators will be required to have a fixed landline telephone number for bookings.
Additional checks will be done on all personnel named on an operator's licence application to ensure they are 'fit and proper'
Further restrictions will apply for operator applications in shared premises within central London.
TfL will work with private hire operators and applicants to encourage adherence to local parking regulations.

### **Private Hire Drivers**

TfL is considering further requirements that applicants must meet to help improve standards and ensure detailed background information checks can be undertaken for all drivers.

TfL is considering additional measures for drivers including a review of training requirements and driver identification.

A new licence condition will be introduced to clarify that any driver who admits to having sexual contact in a licensed vehicle with a passenger will have their licence revoked.

### **Private Hire Vehicles**

New, consolidated external vehicle signage will be introduced to replace all forms of existing vehicle signage, including red route stickers.

TfL will work with the private hire trade on all of these areas to finalise these measures and to identify a suitable timeline for introducing them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Chapman', followed by a vertical line.

**2 September 2011**

For previous Notices visit [tfl.gov.uk/tph](http://tfl.gov.uk/tph)

**Helen Chapman**

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