

Requested information

Please provide the most up-to-date number of registered drivers for each Private Hire operator within your area.

Response

The primary legislation governing the issue of Private hire licenses requires that the Council maintain a register of certain information that must be kept for inspection by the public at all reasonable times. The Council complies with this by keeping a register of Private Hire Drivers which it freely allows to be inspected at its offices at the Transport Services Depot, Locksbrook Road, Bath BA1 3EL. This complies with the requirement to have the information in the public domain and protects the interests of licensees from unsolicited contact by third parties.

Advice from the Office of Information Commissioners states that providing a copy of the register is not lawful and as such would be a breach of the first data principle. The Information Commissioner's Office has stated *"The Commissioner has balanced the interests of the public in having access to this information against the rights and legitimate interests of the individuals named in the register. He has concluded that whilst those individuals will have been made aware that the details in the register would be available for local inspection, they would also have a legitimate expectation that that would be the extent of the publication by the local authority."*

The Private Hire register only requires that the name of the driver, the date for which the licence is granted and the serial number of the licence be registered.

There is no requirement to keep a public register of Private Hire Operators and many of our Operators are self-employed individuals who operate from a home address with a home telephone number and do not wish this information to be divulged to third parties. Similarly we also have Executive Hire Operators who work in the corporate and security sectors who do not advertise publicly and offer a discreet service.

However some Operators may well advertise their services freely and these will already be in the public domain and freely available through other sources.

However in accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 all licensing decisions including the grant of Private Hire Operators can be found on the public portal available here which includes trading names.

<https://isharemaps.bathnes.gov.uk/data.aspx?RequestType=ParseTemplate&Template=LicensingSearchSimple.tmplt>