

Appendix E

Additional Hackney Carriage Proprietor (Vehicle) Licences

Consultation on the proposed allocation procedure and clarification of conditions applying to the new plates.

December 2000

Following the recent Judicial Review, we are now in a position to release the additional plates, originally scheduled for October 2000. (Subject to any appeal the Applicant may make)

37 new Town Licences will be available to all who held District proprietor (vehicle) licences prior to 6th June 2000, and 37 new District Licences will be available to all those who held Town proprietor (vehicle) licences prior to the 6th June 2000. This will enable them to become 'Dual-Plated'.

Expression of Interest forms will be sent to all those proprietors when finalised.

A draft copy is enclosed and we would be grateful for your comments as soon as possible. The proposed scoring scheme would be used if we had more applicants than plates available.

There will be several 'conditions' regarding the issue of these additional plates, including the implications for providing 'Suitably Adapted Vehicles' for access to the disabled and elderly. These, along with the definition of SAVs are detailed below, but please note these are in draft form at the moment.

Definition of Suitably Adapted Vehicle (SAV)

Either:

- a) a saloon car fitted with at least
 - a seat that swivels on its own axis
 - or
 - a swivel seat that also slides out
- b) a vehicle with full wheelchair access,
 - including fixing points, straps & anchors and ramps

Note 1 In the event of a dispute between the applicant and the council as to whether or not a vehicle meets the SAV requirements, the West Berkshire Liaison Group on Disabled Access shall be invited to arbitrate. The fee for this will be approximately £40, to be paid by the applicant.

Note 2 While this mechanism cannot be guaranteed to meet DETR and DTI requirements, it is thought unlikely that either department would argue against it as a appropriate way forward.

Conditions regarding the issue of additional Proprietor (vehicle) Licences

1. If you held a town or district proprietor's licence before 6 June 2000
 - but do not apply for, or receive a dual licence in April '01, you will not have to provide an SAV until such time as specified by central government
 - if you do receive a dual licence in April 2001 if you haven't already got an SAV, you must provide one by April 2004 (or sooner if central government require it)

 2. If you were licensed between 6 June 2000 and April 2001 OR have no licence at all
 - you can not apply to dual licence in April 2001
 - you can apply in October 2001 and for subsequent releases and if you are successful, you must provide SAV by April 2003 (or sooner if central government require it)

 3. If you receive an additional licence and become dual-plated, you can not 'split' the plates to become single plated again, by transferring the other to a third party. If you want to revert to being single-plated, the second plate must come back to the council for re-issue.

 4. Anyone, whether an existing licence holder or not, who applies to have an existing licence transferred to their name, would be required to provide an SAV from 1 April 2003 (or sooner if Govt requirement)
- Any 'transferred' non SAV which is stolen or written off, could be replaced with a non-SAV for the residue of the exempted period, but thereafter must be replaced with an SAV
4. Any SAV which is stolen or written off, could be replaced with a non-SAV for up to thirteen weeks to obtain a replacement. An SAV being taken out of use for repairs, may be replaced with a non-SAV for a specified period, to allow these repairs to be carried out. Approval must be sought from the council.

 6. Applicants for licences to which SAV conditions are applied will need to accept that the council may change the requirements and/or standards at any time so may find that changes to national legislation may increase or decrease the requirements for SAVs