

FOI number: **HBC_FOI_2019016**
Date FOI Received: **08/01/2019**
Department: **Licensing**
Title: **Private Hire taxi driver**
Description: **Checks undertaken of private hire and hackney carriage (taxi) driver licences and the mechanical testing of vehicles.**

Request: *(As Redacted sent by requestor)*

- 1) When someone applies for private hire or hackney carriage driver licence, do you ask if they have been licensed by another council?
- 2) If yes to question one, do you contact the other council for information and what information do you ask?
- 3) Do you do a yearly DVLA driving licence check for all of your licensed private hire and hackney carriage drivers, whether their licence is due for renewal or not? This is an annual inspection including mid-term licences, not a three yearly inspection or inspections on renewal.
- 4) If yes to question three, is the check done by the council or does a third-party do the check?
- 5) Do you do a mechanical testing of vehicles wishing to be licensed as private hire or hackney carriage vehicles at a council owned testing garage?
- 6) If yes to question five, what is DVSA (VOSA) rating of your garage?
- 7) If no to question five, who conducts a mechanical testing of the vehicles?

Response: *(Response as Redacted sent by service)*

- 1) Yes.
- 2) We contact the issuing authority to request by way of a DPA to gain the following ... What type of licence held, the period held, any warnings or complaints received during, has the licence been suspended or revoked and any other information that could help with the determination of an application.
- 3) A DVLA driving licence check would be carried out on the initial application and on further renewal applications by way of a DVLA checking code.
- 4) Third-party.
- 5) No
- 6) N/A
- 7) The Council do not own vehicle testing garages, we have nominated centres that carry out the vehicles MOT with the additional council compliance test.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House, Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545700

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services