

Appendix 2

POLICY IN RESPECT OF ATTACHED TO THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE

Policy Statement

Private Hire vehicles are licensed for the purpose of carrying the fare paying public on journeys pre-booked through a licensed Operator.

The licensed vehicle must be safe and comfortable in every aspect of its design. Modern manufactured vehicles meet these requirements, but not all of them are suitable for the commercial carriage of a wide variety of passengers and luggage. Additionally, some vehicle designs are not appropriate for people who may suffer from a wide range of spinal, visual, ambulant or mobility disabilities.

In simple terms getting into and out of the vehicle must be as easy as possible and take into account the widest range of disabilities, as well as able bodied people. Inside the vehicle the seat space must be adequate to accommodate at least four passengers. Comfortable travelling is required by all passengers, but for people with some disabilities it is an absolute necessity. Accordingly, Leeds City Council will not ordinarily licence sports editions of vehicles or those vehicles designed for 'off roading' or having the characteristics of such a vehicle.

It is not acceptable that public transport vehicles are adapted in any way to replicate sports vehicles with adjustments to the suspension, wheels, body fittings or exhaust or engine performance enhancements or the seating.

Set out below are the pre-conditions to the consideration of the grant of a Private Hire vehicle licence.

Additionally, once licensed, a Private Hire vehicle must continue to meet these standard pre-conditions.

Standard Conditions Attached to the Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle

1. At the point of licensing a vehicle must hold full 'Whole Vehicle Type European Approval'.
2. Will be a manufacturers standard right hand drive vehicle (excluding vehicles of London cab type) with a minimum nominal engine capacity of 1400cc. The colour shall be a manufacturers standard colour for the particular model.
3. Fitted with a least four doors, two to the nearside and two to the offside.
4. Of at least the four-wheel type and carrying a suitable spare wheel which meets the legal requirements.

5. Maintained in the original form of the manufacturers specification, design or appearance of the vehicle.
6. A vehicle licence will not normally be granted if it has sustained accident damage resulting in structural distortion beyond the accepted limits of the vehicle manufacturer, or, has been disposed of under an insurance salvage agreement (categories A, B, C and D,)
7. Must be capable of being inspected to a MOT standard or an appropriate equivalent test to the satisfaction of the Council.