



Hart District Council Exempt vehicle Policy

POLICY FOR GRANTING OF EXEMPTIONS UNDER SECTION 75(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976.

Pre Application advice

Under section 75(3) of the above Act, a local Authority may, by way of a notice to the proprietor of a private hire vehicle, exempt such a vehicle from the requirement to display plates as required by section 48(6) of that Act and also from the requirement for drivers of such vehicles to wear their private hire driver's badge as required under section 54(2) of the same Act.

Hart District Council will only provide a notice of exemption from that requirement to display plates in accordance with the attached Policy. That Notice will also exempt the proprietor from having to comply with the licence conditions relating to display of additional internal and external signage.

The Notice will be granted subject only to written application by a proprietor **and** compliance with the Policy.

This Policy relates to companies wishing to carry out only Corporate/Executive Hire Chauffeur type work and other 'special' journeys which require a higher specification and more prestigious vehicle for which a premium fare would be expected to be charged.

This Policy specifically excludes vehicles being used for day to day private hire work such as pubs, clubs, shopping, school contracts and other similar journeys which must comply with the Act and relevant private hire vehicle licence conditions at all times.

In view of the public safety implications of vehicles working without signage each application will be considered on its individual merits and on its compliance with the Policy.

All applicants wishing to provide vehicles and drivers to carry out work covered by this Policy are advised to consult with the Licensing Team prior to purchasing a vehicle on 01252 622122 or email licensing@hart.gov.uk for advice.

Policy for approving exemptions under section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Hart District Council acknowledges that there is a demand for businesses offering a 'higher end' private hire service for corporate and other customers desiring a higher specification of vehicle without signage and licence plates on display. Under section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a local authority may exempt a vehicle from the requirement to display a licence plate and a driver from the requirement to wear his or her drivers badge.

Hart District Council have adopted this policy to allow the Corporate/chauffeur market to be fully licensed and safe whilst meeting customer demand.

Applicants should be aware that once licensed as an executive vehicle with an exemption the vehicle **MUST NOT** be used for normal day to day hire or school contract work.

Applicants /licence holders are advised that any contravention of the permission granted with an exemption will lead to the removal of an exemption and a requirement for all plates and signage to be restored at all times during the period of the licence.

SECTION 1 – Approved business model specification

Approved work for which an exemption may be granted to a relevant vehicle..

- 1 Corporate/Chauffeur style bookings to transport employees and clients on corporate business journeys and/or
- 2 Airport and other 'special' journeys where the client specifically requests a vehicle of a prestige specification at the time of booking and pays a recognisably higher fee for that service compared to that charged for a non exempt vehicle displaying corporate identity.

No vehicle issued with an exemption from the requirement to display the Council issued licence plate may undertake any other type of private hire bookings at any other time, other than what is agreed at the grant of a licence and in accordance with this Policy.

Section 2 - Approved Vehicle Specification

There is no restriction on the make and model of a vehicle to which an application for exemption to display the plate is made other than those vehicles which do not meet the following criteria:

The approval of an exemption will be based on the reputation, specification, appearance, perception and superior comfort levels of a vehicle.

In addition, the nature of the proprietors business and the proposed hiring type for the vehicle will be considered as detailed at section 1 above. Each application will be considered on its individual merits but the final decision for approval or refusal will remain with the Head of Regulatory Services.

- 1 A range of vehicles will be considered provided they meet the higher vehicle specification and proposed use.
- 2 Vehicles to be licensed for a number of passengers plus the driver allowing sufficient space for adult passengers to travel comfortably. Each seat must be of adequate dimensions to seat an adult and provide generous leg room.
- 3 There must be sufficient capacity of engine size or power output to convey the passengers in comfort and without the need to refuel during a pre booked journey.
- 4 The vehicle must comply with the Hart Council private hire vehicle specification as detailed in the Hart District Council Taxi and Private Hire policy. No vehicle modifications from the manufacturer's specification are accepted.
- 5 The vehicle must in addition have a minimum specification of at least air conditioning/climate control to front and rear seats, all electric windows, central locking and front and rear headrests sufficient for each passenger.
- 6 Male drivers must wear a suit or jacket and trousers plus shirt and tie at all times. Female drivers must follow an equivalent dress code but will not be required to wear a tie. This dress code must be followed at all times the vehicle is being used to undertake a booking. Jackets may be removed where weather conditions require it.
- 7 Vehicles must be under 7 years of age at first licence. The decision to grant exemptions for any vehicle older than this will be at the discretion of the Head of Regulatory Services.
- 8 All vehicles licensed under this policy will be inspected on renewal prior to the grant of a renewed licence.

SECTION 3 – STORAGE OF LICENCE PLATE

- 1 A licence plate will be issued for each vehicle granted an exemption from the requirement to display the plate. The licence plate must be stored inside the vehicle (usually in the boot) at all times.
- 2 The small internal licence plate provided must be displayed in the front windscreen for the duration of the licence.