

REQUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE TEST EXEMPTION

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A request to be exempt from passing the Council's knowledge test to obtain a Private Hire Drivers' Licence has been received from Mr Andrew Holmes. A copy of his request can be found at Appendix 2.
- 1.2 Mr Holmes is proposing to licence a mini-bus for non-metered pre-arranged contracts and requests a mini-bus be considered a stretch limousine, as he considers his intended work to be the same as that of a stretch limousine driver.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider Mr Holmes' request and the information contained in this report and either:
 - reject the request for the exemption; or
 - agree the request for the exemption

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Any decision made must have regard to the information in the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 In 2008, the legislation that allowed 'contract hire exemption' was repealed. Since that time all private hire work, including pre-arranged contract work became legally enforceable as 'private hire', including both vehicles and drivers.

- 4.2 On 9 July 2008, the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee approved amendments to the Private Hire Driver and Vehicle Conditions, to relax the need for private hire drivers of stretch limousines to pass the Council's knowledge test, to create the Private Hire Stretched Limousine Drivers' Licence Conditions.

Condition 2 stipulates:

'Applicants for a Private Hire Stretch Limousine Drivers Licence shall be exempted from the requirement to satisfy the Council that they have a high standard of local knowledge in order to discharge their duties, on the grounds that they shall only be licensed to drive stretched limousines.'

- 4.3 All other private hire work requires the driver to successfully complete a knowledge test, including those people intending to drive mini-buses, irrespective of metered or non-metered journeys.
- 4.4 All private hire work must be pre-booked.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Not applicable.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Olu Idowu
Financial officer	Amanda Fletcher
Human Resources officer	-
Service Director(s)	John Tomlinson
Other(s)	-

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Background papers:	None
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 None directly arising from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 As the licensing authority, the Council is obliged to ensure that its licensing policies and related terms and conditions are uniformly applied, so far as is reasonably achievable, and also effectively safeguard the public interest.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None directly arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

Carbon commitment

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

Value for money

- 7.1 None directly arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 8.1 The information set out in this report supports the corporate priorities so the people of Derby **enjoy being safe and feeling safe** and the Council provides **good quality services that meet local needs**.