

REGULATORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Charlie Dennis

DATE: 22 January 2018
REPORT OF: Licensing Officer
SUBJECT: Request for exemption to display plate for a private hire vehicle

PART I

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regulatory & Appeals Committee is asked to consider whether to refuse or grant the request and if granted to impose a condition.

1. PURPOSE

To consider approval for the exemption to display a plate for a Mercedes Benz CLS 350 CDI to be licensed as Private Hire vehicle.

2. BACKGROUND

Section 48 (6)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that

'Subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act, no person shall use or permit to be used in a controlled district as a private hire vehicle in respect of which a licence has been granted under this section unless the plate or disc issued in accordance with subsection (5) of this section is exhibited on the vehicle in such manner as the district council shall prescribe by condition attached to the grant of the licence.'

The Council's requirement for the display of licence plates on the rear of licensed vehicles is set out in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, at paragraph 9.4 on page 27.

'9.4 Licence Plates

The licensing plate identifying the vehicle as Hackney Carriage or Private Hire shall be securely fixed to the outside rear of the vehicle in a position as

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approved by the Council whilst the vehicle is being used for hire purposes and shall be kept fully visible and legible at all times.

A vehicle identification badge shall be fixed to the front windscreen above or below the tax disc, in a position that meets current MOT regulations. The badge will display the plate number, vehicle model, registration and number of passengers on the front face with the Council's details and plate number on the rear.'

The applicant has requested exemption to display the rear plate whilst carry out specific aspects of his business, Film Location Support (Ltd), Appendix B. The applicant's reason for the request is because the vehicle is to be used for chauffeuring executive clients within the film and TV industry. A small plate could be displayed on the inside rear door of the vehicle and the applicant would be happy to display a full size plate for any work outside of film industry.

Although we do not have an exemption/dispensation application process within our policy some Authorities do, for example, Mendip District Council have a dispensation application available. *3.24.2 Proprietors that use PHVs for executive/prestige/VIP type business may apply for a dispensation to not display a licence plate and door signage. In these circumstances the laminated certificate issued by the Authority confirming that such a dispensation is in force must be carried in the vehicle and produced for inspection upon request. An application for exemption must be submitted to the Authority and will be considered by an officer of the Council.*

The Applicant company hire private hire drivers from different areas in the country.

It has been requested that the vehicle is available for viewing at the hearing, should the committee wish to do so.

3. MAIN IMPLICATIONS

The main implication is that the plate is a visual aid for the members of the public to show that it is a licensed vehicle. The standard size plate is 240mm x 180mm and the smaller plate is 230mm x 75mm, samples of which will be shown at committee. A front windscreen identification plate measures 90mm x 85mm.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. OPTIONS

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1. Grant the request for dispensation to display a rear plate when used for executive hire with or without the display of a small plate inside the vehicle
2. Grant the display of a small plate on the rear of the vehicle.
3. Add a condition that a plate should be displayed when not working within the Film and TV industry.
4. Refuse the request

Hayley Carpenter
Licensing Officer
Environment, Health and Wellbeing

Wards affected	All
Contact for any more information	H Carpenter
Background Papers (For Part I reports only)	<i>Relevant legislation and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Regulations</i> Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
Key Decision	N
In Forward Plan	N
In O&S Work Programme	N
Community Impact Assessment attached:	N
Appendices attached:	A: Application B : Request C: Letter from Studio Cars Bristol Ltd