

REGULATORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Charlie Dennis

DATE: 27 November 2017
REPORT OF: Licensing Officer
SUBJECT: Request for a small 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 a small plate for a Hummer Krystal, registration number B19 HMR licensed as a 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 approved by the Council whilst the vehicle is being used for hire purposes and shall be kept fully visible and legible at all times.

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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 replacement of the traditional size plate with the smaller plate (Appendix A). A sample of the standard plate and the smaller plate will be shown to the committee at the hearing.

Small plates have previously been granted for specialist vehicles, Chrysler, Mercedes, Audi TDI, stretch Limousine and two BMW's because the main use was for weddings and special occasions and the removal of a plate from a licensed vehicle is not permitted at any time. There are currently 6 vehicles that have small licence plates displayed.

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 requested is 230mm x 75mm, samples of which will be shown at committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

5. OPTIONS

1. Grant the request for a small plate to be used for executive hire
2. 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:	N