

REGULATORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Dennis

DATE: 11 June 2018
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.

1. PURPOSE

To consider approval for a small plate for a Mercedes V250, registration number KP67 TFO. A currently licensed Private Hire vehicle, P456 first licensed on 30th April 2018.

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.'

3. REQUEST

The applicant requested replacement of the traditional size plate with the smaller plate, samples will be provided at the hearing. The reason for the request is because the vehicle is to be used mainly in connection executive travel.

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

Small plates have previously been granted for specialist vehicles, Chrysler, Mercedes, Audi TDI, stretch Limousine, jaguar and two BMWs because they were going to mainly be used for weddings and special occasions and the removal of a plate from a licensed vehicle is not permitted at any time.

4. 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.

The Licensing department has received several and increasing enquiries regarding the granting of small plates and have advised that permissions previously granted have been for vehicles that were primarily being used for special occasions and executive work. It has been implied that a couple of the saloon vehicles that have small plates are not being primarily for this purpose. Therefore it is recommended that if granted the applicant is required to present booking records for the vehicle every quarter to the Licensing Department. This will ensure that the vehicle is being used for the purposes that the small licence plate was granted and not for general private hire work. If it is deemed that the vehicle is not being kept for executive /specialist work a report will be presented to Committee for a decision as to whether the grant of the small plate should be revoked.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a cost of £35 for the production of an individual small plate to be borne by the applicant due to this being a replacement plate.

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6. OPTIONS

1. Grant the request for a small plate to be used in connection with executive travel.
2. If the Committee resolve to grant a small plate, the Committee is asked to consider whether it is necessary to impose a condition requiring the private hire operator to produce quarterly booking records to the Licensing department to satisfy that the vehicles continued use is for these purposes
3. 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