

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE

27 MARCH 2024

PART I

Report Title	Misuse of a small plate for a private hire vehicle.
Purpose	To consider the revocation of a small plate for CR15 KHO Mercedes EQB350
Applicant	Licensing
Options	The Committee may: a. Grant the continued use of a small plate. b. Re-issue a standard size fixed plate.
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Appendices / Background Papers	A: Vehicle photographs B: Sample small plate

1. RELEVANT POLICY AND LAW

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.***

A vehicle identification badge shall be fixed to the front windscreen 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.'

Small plates have previously been granted for specialist vehicles when the main use has been for weddings and special occasions. **The removal of a plate from a licensed vehicle is not permitted at any time.**

2. APPLICATION DETAILS

- 2.1 The applicant requested and was granted a small plate at committee on 5 April 2022 when it was first licensed. The reason for the request was to add the vehicle to the executive fleet for their business clients. The vehicle has now been seen on 2 occasions by Teignbridge staff without the small plate displayed.

3. MAIN IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 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.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.