

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE

29 May 2025

PART I

Report Title	Request for Private Hire Vehicle Licence for Vehicle over 5 years. Blue, Renault Megane, WF16 NNG
Purpose	For the Committee to consider the request included in this report, representations made by the owner of the vehicle and to determine whether the vehicle is fit for purpose and should be issued with a licensed plate.
Applicant	Mr Jugthar Singh
Options	The Committee may: a. Grant the request, with or without conditions; or b. Refuse the request.
Report Author	Mrs Andrea Furness, Licensing Manager licensing@teignbridge.gov.uk
Appendices / Background Papers	A: Request for licence B: MOT history C: Photographs D: Vehicle Inspection Sheet

1. APPLICATION DETAILS

- 1.1 Vehicle first registered – 10 June 2016
Age of vehicle, if granted – 8 years and 11 months

The vehicle does not meet the Council's licensing policy as it is over 5 years of age.

- 1.2 MOT expires – 29 September 2025 – with one minor defect and two advisories.
Repair as soon as possible (minor defects)
- Offside Windscreen damaged but not adversely affecting driver's view 93.2(a)(i))
- Monitor and repair if necessary (advisories):
- Offside Front Road wheel slightly distorted (5.2.2 (c)(i))
 - Rear Brake disc work, pitted or scored, but not seriously weakened (1.1.14 (a)(ii))
- 1.3 Vehicle inspection took place on 8 May 2025 and failed. This was retested on 10 May 2025 and passed.

1.4 Licensing Officer:

At the time of writing this report the vehicle had not been inspected by a licensing officer.

Recommendation:

Whether to grant a licence or not. If the Committee resolves to license the vehicle, a condition can be imposed requiring the vehicle to have six or four monthly vehicle inspections.

2. RELEVANT POLICY AND LAW

2.1 Paragraph 5.2 of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy states that:

A vehicle being presented for initial licensing is required to be under five years old at first registration.

2.2 All vehicle licences are issued annually.

2.3 Section 48(4)(c) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that:

'Every licence granted under this section shall— (c) remain in force for such period not being longer than one year as the district council may specify in the licence'.

2.4 Section 48(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that:

'A district council may attach to the grant of a licence under this section such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary including, without prejudice to the generality of foregoing provisions of this subsection, conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle to which the licence relates.'

2.5 The above Policy and statutory provisions reflect the Council's responsibility to ensure that all hackney carriage and private hire vehicles are safe and fit for use by members of the public. The Committee has the discretion to license a vehicle if it is of the view that the vehicle is safe, fit for use and is in an acceptable condition.

2.6 The decision of the Committee following a complete review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy in April 2009, after taking into account the views from the trade, were as follows:

"The Committee decided that vehicles being presented for initial licensing must be under five years old."

2.7 Section 50(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides:

'that a district council shall not under the provisions of this subsection require a proprietor to present the same hackney carriage or private hire vehicle for inspection and testing on more than three separate occasions during any one period of twelve months.'

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of defending the appeal if the application is refused and the applicant appeals to the Magistrates' Court.

4. LEGAL

The Committee are required only to ensure that Public Safety is not compromised by the granting of the licence. If they are satisfied that safety is reasonably assured, they may grant the licence for a maximum of 12 months or such shorter period as they see as appropriate.