

**Report of the Service Director to the
General Licensing Regulatory Board
to be held on the 16 April 2025**

Taxi and Private Hire Policy - CCTV in Hackney Carriages

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members that on the 5th March 2025 Cabinet approved changes to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy in relation to the addition of the mandatory use of CCTV in Hackney Carriage vehicles.

2. Background

In April 2024 Cabinet approved to accept £173,500 from SYMCA as part of the Transport Innovation Fund for a pilot scheme to introduce CCTVs in taxis. It was also approved by the General Licensing committee following the results of the taxi demand survey, that the current limit on the number of hackney carriage licences would be retained at 67 and remedial actions taken. A further demand survey will then be repeated to establish the impact of the actions in 12 months.

The installation of CCTV in Hackney Carriages formed part of the remedial actions proposed. The main aim of the CCTV is to increase both driver and passenger safety and encourage more drivers to work at unsociable times. It will also reassure drivers if customers demonstrate challenging behaviors.

The Department for Transport (DfT) recommends that all licensing authorities make publicly available a cohesive policy document that brings together all their procedures on taxi and private hire vehicle licensing. Barnsley MBC implemented its Taxi and Private Hire Policy in March 2022. A link to the current document is provided :- <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/e5ahsjco/taxi-and-private-hire-licensing-policy-2022.pdf>

In line with this pilot scheme the Taxi and Private Hire Policy has been amended to update the Councils position in relation to the mandatory requirement for CCTV in Hackney Carriages.

As the requirement for CCTV is mandatory a public consultation was carried out to assess responses and views in relation to the proposal.

3. Current Position

The pilot scheme is limited to Hackney Carriage Vehicles and will be implemented in April 2025. A further review will then be carried out by April 2026 to determine the effectiveness of the CCTV and the availability of taxis in the town centre.

In line with this pilot scheme the Taxi and Private Hire Policy has been amended to update the Councils position in relation to CCTV as follows :-

CCTV

It is recognised that the hackney carriage and private hire trades provide a valuable public service, especially late at night, when other forms of public transport are not always available. Security for both drivers and passengers is a high priority.

CCTV cameras can be a valuable deterrent to criminal activity as well as protecting the driver from unjustified complaints.

For the purpose of this policy, CCTV relates to recording inside of the vehicle only.

All hackney carriages licensed by Barnsley MBC must have a CCTV system installed by the provider specified by the Council following the tender exercise*. The CCTV system must be in use whenever the vehicle is in use as a licensed vehicle for the purpose of hire and reward.

Whilst the Council will provide the CCTV system, the ownership will transfer on installation to and will at all times remain the property of the licensed proprietor/owner of the hackney carriage vehicle who will at all times be liable for its use in their vehicle(s). The licensed proprietor/owner of the hackney carriage vehicle will be responsible for the maintenance and security of the CCTV system. The Council will have no liability for the goods or services provided. We will be data controller for the purpose of data protection and so own the footage.

The installation of security measures such as a bulkhead or screen between driver and passengers, as a means of providing some protection for drivers is acceptable. Where a screen has been fitted the CCTV camera must be fitted to ensure a clear recording. The driver and proprietor of the hackney carriage vehicle shall ensure that the CCTV system is properly maintained and serviced to ensure clear images are recorded. Any deliberate abuse or deliberate attempt to interfere with the legitimate use of the CCTV system will be given due weight and regard when determining whether the driver/proprietor is a fit and proper person to continue holding a licence.

Warning signage must be clearly and prominently displayed inside the vehicle advising passengers that a CCTV system is in operation in the vehicle.

It will be the hackney carriage driver/proprietors responsibility to comply with all aspects of the law regarding such surveillance equipment. There is information available on the ICO's website - [CCTV and video surveillance | ICO](#) and the CCTV code of practice - [Update to Surveillance Camera Code of Practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**The approved supplier will be confirmed prior to the implementation of this policy and any change to the hackney carriage vehicle conditions.*

The Hackney Carriage Vehicle conditions of licence have been amended as follows:-

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE CONDITION

- In relation to CCTV systems proprietors must have CCTV equipment installed to the specification set by Barnsley MBC and ensure that it is operated in accordance with the Licensing Authority's Policy.
- The vehicle must display a minimum of 3 warning signs clearly and prominently displayed inside the vehicle advising passengers that a CCTV system is in operation in the vehicle. The notices shall be positioned in a prominent (though not obstructive) position where they can be easily read by persons both inside and outside of the vehicle. The proprietor shall ensure that the notices are maintained in a clean and legible condition.
- The proprietor shall ensure that the CCTV system is properly and regularly maintained and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Written records of all maintenance and servicing shall be made and retained by the proprietor for a minimum of 24 months. Such written records shall be made available on demand by an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.
- The vehicle proprietor shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that any driver of the vehicle is made aware of every condition in relation to the installed CCTV system.

As the mandatory requirement is in relation to CCTV in Hackney Carriage Vehicles there is no reason to amend drivers individual licences.

In order to share the proposed changes to the policy and hackney carriage vehicle licence conditions and capture the views of all interested parties, a public consultation was carried out in relation to mandating CCTV in Barnsley MBC Hackney Carriages.

The consultation ran for 10 weeks from 25 October 2024 until 00:00 hours on 3 January 2025.

In total Officers received 26 responses, 23 were in favour of the CCTV becoming a mandatory requirement, 1 was in favour of the CCTV on a voluntary basis, and 1 response was not in favour and a further response did not give a view but responded with questions. These questions were answered and the respondent verbally confirmed that they would then be in favour of the mandatory CCTV requirement.

5. Recommendation

That Members support the work of officers to ensure that the pilot scheme is successful in supporting driver and passengers feel safe when working and travelling in Barnsley.

6. Officer Contact

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