

## Taxi and Private Hire Newsletter April 2024

### Refresher Safeguarding and Equalities Training

Safeguarding and Equalities training is mandatory for all taxi and private hire drivers licensed by Stroud District Council.

When we reviewed and updated our driver policy in 2021 we introduced that all licence holders must take refresher training every three years. This is in line with current Government Statutory Guidance.

Our driver policy states that all existing drivers, who have not done Safeguarding and Equality training in the last 3 years, **must do their Safeguarding and Equalities refresher training by the end of September 2024**. Failure to undertake the refresher training by this date will lead to suspension of the licence until such a time as the training is completed.

If you have not done Taxi and Private Hire Safeguarding and Equalities Training, in the last 3 years, you will need to book onto Refresher training now.

We have set up some training dates at Stroud District Council Offices. **We urge you to get booked on as soon as possible so that you do not miss the deadline and risk your licence being suspended.** This training is in person, and sessions can only accommodate 30 people at a time so they will fill up fast. The training sessions will take between two and half hours and three hours and you will get a certificate at the end. The cost of the session is £40.

- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 10:15**
- **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 10:15**
- **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 10:15**
- **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 10:15**
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 11:30**



You can book yourself onto a session and make the payment through our website <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/taxis-and-private-hire-licensing/taxi-safeguarding-and-equalities-training>

If none of the above dates work for you, you can also book a session through one of the other Gloucestershire authorities. The training and the fee is the same. If you book through another authority, please let us know so we don't chase you to get booked on and **please email us the Certificate once you have completed the course**. The details and dates for the other authorities are also on our webpage.

### Stroud Food & Drink Festival May 2024 - Road Closures

Stroud Food and Drink Festival will take place in Stroud Town between Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Some roads will be closed throughout the Festival.



These are:

- Lansdown and Gloucester Street
- Fawkes Place and Beford Street
- London Road between the clocks and junction with Union Street.

These roads will shut at midday on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and stay closed continuously until 19:00 on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

The town will be busy with pedestrians over this event so please take care when driving round.

## Changes to SDC Website

Stroud District Council's website is moving to a new platform soon. This means that links that you might have to our current web pages might not work after the change. All the information from our current website should pull across to the new one and you will be able to find our web pages by putting taxi in the search box. Let us know if you see anything that doesn't look right or work properly.



## Taxi Fares



It's the time of year again when we review the fares that the meters are set at in our hackney carriage vehicles. We have set up a Task and Finish Group made up of Councillors from our Community Services and Licensing Committee to look at this for 2024 and we will contact you to let you know what is being proposed and to ask for comments.

## Review of Vehicle Age Policy on First Licensing

At the request of some members of the trade, the Taxi Task and Finish Group, made up of some of the Councillors from our Community Services and Licensing Committee, will review our vehicle age policy on first licensing vehicles. We do not know the outcome of this yet and they may decide to not make any changes to our current policy. Our current policy is that on first licensing a vehicle must be 5 years old or less, with the exception of electric vehicles, ultra low emission vehicles, and wheelchair accessible vehicles. If any change to this is proposed it would have to go through the Committee process which takes time. If there are any changes, they would not have effect till much later in the year. We will keep you updated.

## Vehicle Policy on Renewal

Here is a reminder of our vehicle policy for renewals:

- **Up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025** - An application to renew a taxi or private hire vehicle will be refused if the vehicle is more than 10 years old from date of first registration. wheelchair accessible vehicles and electric vehicles are exempt.
- **After 1st April 2025** - An application to renew a taxi or private hire vehicle will be refused if the vehicle is not Euro 6 compliant, or, its an ultra low emission vehicle or an electric vehicle. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are exempt.



## CCTV in Taxis

If you have CCTV that records inside your taxi or private hire vehicle, don't forget that you must have signage up in the vehicle that tells your customers that CCTV is in operation.

You also need to let us know that you have CCTV installed so that we can authorise it. If you have not told us about your CCTV please contact us on [licensing@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@stroud.gov.uk)

In accordance with our policy you cannot audio record your passengers as this is considered intrusive.

The exceptions for when you can use audio recording are:

- A journey under a Gloucestershire County Council school contract where a condition of the contract is that audio must be switched on throughout the journey
- A situation where you need to switch on audio temporarily if you face verbal or physical abuse

The data that you record on your CCTV equipment is personal data and must be kept secure. You are considered in law as the data controller for the recordings and you must be registered with the information Commissioners Office [Data protection fee | ICO](#)

You don't need any authorisation from us or registration with the Information Commissioners Office if you have a dash cam that just records outside of your vehicle

## Licence Application Fees

Some of our application fees went up on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. You can see a full list of fees on our webpage. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/taxis-and-private-hire-licensing/taxi-fees>



### Contact Us:

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