

Note to Drivers, December 2016

Park Road Surgery - Service for Taxi Driver Medicals Withdrawn

Park Road Surgery advised that they will be withdrawing their service of providing medicals for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers from 31 December 2016, except for patients registered with them.

In future drivers will need to see their own GP to complete a SHBC medical report at their expense and send it the Council's Licensing Team. If a medical issue is identified the application will be refused. The driver will be referred to the Council's medical advisor at the driver's expense if the application is to proceed.

The new medical report form may be found on the Council's website here

<http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/business/licensing-permits/taxis/drivers-licence-hackney-carriage-or-private-hire-vehicle>

In addition, the age when an annual medical is required is being increased from 60 to 65 years to match the DVLA requirements.

Phased Implementation of 3 year Taxi Drivers Licenses

From April 2017 the way we issue Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver's licences will be changing.

Drivers who have a DBS (formerly CRB) due may only apply for a 3 year licence.

This is because of a change in legislation.

The fee for a 3 year licence is being reduced from £285 (3 x £95) to £250.

If the most recent medical is less than 2 years old when your current drivers licence expires you won't need another medical until the 3 year licence is next renewed. This is so the DBS and medical checks will match in future.

Drivers who are not due for a DBS check this time may also apply for a 3 year licence but will still require a fresh DBS certificate and a medical unless its more than 2 years old.

The age when an annual medical is required is being increased from 60 to 65 years to match the DVLA requirements.

If you require an annual medical for either health or age reasons this will continue and you may only apply for an annual licence.

All new drivers may only apply for a 3 year licence from 01 April 2016.

DSA Taxi Drivers Test - Service Withdrawn

You may also be aware that the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) have withdrawn their service from 31 December 2017.

The Council has adopted both The Blue Lamp Trust and AA DriveTec as acceptable agencies to certify potential taxi driver candidates as suitable to drive.

We will still accept historic DSA Test Certificates as evidence to drive to the required standard.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Packs

Due to the ongoing changes mentioned above the provision of taxi driver packs is also being withdrawn. The information contained will quickly become out of date and confuse potential applicants. All the information is readily available on the website which is current. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) application forms will continue to be available for collection in the Main Reception at Surrey Heath House.