



Licensing Fees For 2006

Following a number of objections the licence fees for 2006 have now been determined (please see attached schedule for details)

The main objections were the increase in wheelchair accessible fees and garage test fees, both of these fee areas have been considered and some variations have been implemented.

As part of the consultation process one objector has requested that we consider initiating a review of the council's current policies and charging/cost allocations in relation to the transport licensing function. Whilst we are happy to undertake such a review there would obviously be a financial implication for doing so. We would welcome your views on how much we should spend on such a review, bearing in mind its costs would have to be paid for by the trade in future licensing fees.

Licence Renewals

Vehicles

You should have already received your application to renew your vehicle licence, if you have not please call into the office to collect an application form.

To enable us to have your licence and plates available before your current licence expires your application must be submitted by Monday 24th April 2006 for Hackney Carriage Vehicles and by Friday 19th May 2006 for Private Hire Vehicles.

If you do not have your new licence and plates before your current ones expire you will not be able to trade.

All Licence Holders: Drivers, Operators and Vehicle Proprietors

We will not be sending out reminder letters/renewal forms in the future. It is up to you to remember when your licence expires.

Application forms can be collected from this office or downloaded from our website at www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/stockton

You are advised to apply for the renewal of your licence at least three weeks before your current licence expires. This will enable us to have your new licence in place before your current one expires so you can continue to trade.

The following is a quick reminder:

Licence Type	Renewal Date
Hackney Carriage Vehicle	30 th April every year
Private Hire Vehicle	31 st May every year
Private Hire Operator	30 th November every year
Driver Badges	Check your licence – There is not a set date for renewal of driver badges

Proprietors who submit their applications by the requested date will be able to collect their new licences and plates between the hours of **9.30am and 3.30pm on Saturday 29th April 2006 for Hackney Carriage Licences or Saturday 27th May 2006 for Private Hire Licences.**

Please remember your old plates must be returned at the same time.

“Fresh” Vehicles



Smoke Free Stockton is promoting smoke free public venues across the Stockton area. What better way for

customers to get there, than in a “smoke free” vehicle.

The partners involved in Smoke Free Stockton are promoting the use of vehicles that are smoke free.

When you renew your vehicle licence you will be asked if you will be operating a “smoke free” vehicle (not allowing anybody, including yourself, to smoke in your vehicle)

If you join the scheme you will be given free bumper stickers and car tax disc holder and Smoke Free Stockton will promote the use of such vehicles.



Assistance Dogs



We have received a number of complaints from members of the public who have assistance dogs. These dogs enable their owners to try and lead as normal a life as possible whilst living with their disabilities. Some drivers are refusing fares for some disabled members of the public with assistance dogs. The Disability Discrimination Act reinforces this obligation for you to carry this type of dog; there is also a moral obligation to treat everybody as equal. We will investigate any complaint alleging that a driver has refused to take a fare because the passenger has an assistance dog with them.

Soap Box



Do you have any views or opinions on transport matters that you would like to share with Council and the rest of the Trade?

Why not write an article to be included in a future edition of this newsletter. The Trade Times is for your benefit, why not make use of it and have your say!

Website

Advice and information on a range of Trading Standards & Licensing issues is available 24 hours per day on our website.



Please visit

www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/stockton

And Finally...



Would you like to receive this newsletter via e-mail? Just provide us with your e-mail address and we will send the next issue to your inbox.

Please note our offices will be closed on

- Friday 14th April 2006
- Monday 17th April 2006
- Monday 1st May 2006
- Monday 29th May 2006.

Schedule of Licence Fees 2006	
Type of Licence	Proposed Fee
New Grant of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle	
a) Wheelchair Accessible	£190.00*
b) Other Vehicles	£370.00
New Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle	£295.00
Renewal of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle	
a) Wheelchair Accessible	£190.00*
b) Other Vehicles	£345.00
Renewal of a Private Hire Vehicle	£270.00
Change of Hackney Carriage Vehicle	£85.00
Change of Private Hire Vehicle	£85.00
Transfer of Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Vehicle	£40.00
Change of Registration Mark (Cherished Numbers)	£85.00
Grant of Private Hire Operator Licence	
1 Vehicle	£118.00
2 Vehicles	£200.00
3-7 Vehicles	£476.00
8-12 Vehicles	£697.00
13-17 Vehicles	£917.00
18-22 Vehicles	£1255.00
23-27 Vehicles	£1481.00
28-32 Vehicles	£1722.00
33-37 Vehicles	£1932.00
38-42 Vehicles	£2142.00
43-47 Vehicles	£2347.00
Every Additional 5 Vehicles or Part a Further Fee of £200.00	
Renewal of Private Hire Operators Licence	
1 Vehicle	£88.00
2 Vehicles	£170.00
3-7 Vehicles	£446.00
8-12 Vehicles	£667.00
13-17 Vehicles	£887.00
18-22 Vehicles	£1225.00
23-27 Vehicles	£1451.00
28-32 Vehicles	£1692.00
33-37 Vehicles	£1902.00
38-42 Vehicles	£2112.00
43-47 Vehicles	£2317.00
Every Additional 5 Vehicles or Part a Further Fee of £200.00	
Private Hire Driver Renewal Badge	£55.00
Hackney Carriage Driver Renewal Badge	£55.00
Combined Driver Renewal Badge	£70.00
Testing of Vehicles	£50.00
Testing of Vehicles including MOT Certificate	£55.00
Failure to Attend for Test (less than 48 hours notice)	£50.00
Retest	£25.00
Retest (Including Emissions Test)	£35.00
Retest ((Emissions Only)	£10.00
Meter Calibration Test	£10.00

* Until such time as, and if, a new policy on wheelchair accessible vehicle comes into force.