

NOTICE OF HEARING BY THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date and Time: THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2017, AT 10.00 AM

Place: COUNCIL CHAMBER, APPLETREE COURT,

LYNDHURST

Telephone enquiries to: Lyndhurst (023) 8028 5000

023 8028 5588 - ask for Melanie Stephens E-mail: melanie.stephens@nfdc.gov.uk

These papers are also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2017.

Sub-Committee Procedure (Pages 1 - 2)

4. **APPLICATION FOR A GRANT OF A VEHICLE LICENCE** (Pages 3 - 32)

To consider an application for a grant of a vehicle licence.

5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

To: Members of the Sub-Committee:

Cllr S J Clarke Cllr A T Glass Cllr L E Harris



Agenda Annex

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Grant/Renewal/Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence

Procedure at Hearings before the Licensing Sub-Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee will be held to determine applications. The applicant will have an opportunity to be heard, together with any representatives they may wish to call.
- 1.2 The application and all representations will be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee.

2. PROCEDURE AT HEARINGS

- 2.1 At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman of the Licensing Sub-Committee will:-
 - (i) Introduce himself/herself and the other members of the Sub-Committee.
 - (ii) State the purpose of the hearing and ensure that the Applicant and other parties understand the procedure to be followed.
 - (iii) Read aloud from the agenda paper particulars of the application.
 - (iv) Ask for the names and addresses of persons the Applicant wishes to be heard in support of his application and for the name and status of any person representing the Applicant. Likewise the names of other representatives will also be recorded.

2.2 The Licensing Officer's Report

- (i) The Licensing Officer or his representative will present a report on the application and call witnesses if appropriate;
- (ii) The Applicant, and the Sub-Committee will be given an opportunity to question the Licensing Officer or his representative and witnesses, if any, on the details of their report and any oral submissions they have made.

2.3 The Applicant's Case

- (i) The Applicant or his representative may make opening remarks;
- (ii) The Applicant or his representative will then call any witnesses and/or give evidence in support of his case;
- (iii) The Licensing Officer or his representative, and the Sub-Committee will be given the opportunity to question the Applicant and any of his witnesses as they are called; and

- (iv) Other persons making representations will give evidence in support of his case:
- (v) The Licensing Officer or his representative, and the Sub-Committee will be given the opportunity to question those making representations; and
- (vi) The Applicant or his representative will be given an opportunity of asking any further questions of each witness after they have been questioned by the other parties in (ii) above.

2.4 Concluding Remarks

- (i) The Licensing Officer or his representative will be given the opportunity to sum up;
- (ii) The Applicant or his representative will be given the opportunity to sum up;
- (iii) Other persons making representations will be given the opportunity to sum up.
- 2.5 The Chairman will then ask the applicant and Licensing Officer to leave the meeting whilst the Sub-Committee considers the matter.
- 2.6 The Sub-Committee's Legal Advisor and the Clerk will remain to give any procedural or legal advice and to record the decision.
- 2.7 Once the Sub-Committee has reached a decision, the Applicant and the Licensing Officer will be invited to re-enter the meeting. The Chairman or the Legal Advisor will read the decision. The Applicant and the Licensing Officer will be notified of the decision in writing as soon as possible following the meeting.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE - 19 OCTOBER 2017

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A VEHICLE LICENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. On 23 August 2017 the Licensing Authority received an application from New Forest Executive Hire Ltd, to licence a Private Hire Vehicle. The vehicle is a 3 litre Audio A8 excel saloon, first registered on 8/12/2014. The application form and supporting vehicle documentation is provided at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2. The vehicle has four seats in total, allowing the vehicle to carry a maximum of three passengers. The two rear seats are separated by a large console, which provides controls for various passenger comfort devices. **Appendix 2** provides interior photographs of the vehicle. In addition Mr Adams, a Director of New Forest Executive Hire Ltd, will present the vehicle for inspection at the hearing.
- 1.3. All vehicles licensed by the Council must hold a current MOT certificate and pass a licensed vehicle test to the standards outlined in the Council's Statement of Principles. A copy of the MOT status is provided with the vehicle documents at **Appendix 1.**
- 1.4. On 6 September 2017, Mr Adams presented the vehicle at the Council testing facility at Hounsdown depot. However the vehicle failed the test, as the vehicle did not meet the requisite test standard because the vehicle fell short of the required number of rear passenger seats which is contrary to national guidance.
- 1.5. In addition, New Forest Executive Travel Ltd hold an exemption from displaying NFDC plates on their vehicles due to the nature of their business, client type and standard of vehicles. The Operator is requesting that an exemption is also applied to this vehicle if licensed. Part I of the Council's Licensing Policy is provided at **Appendix 3** and Members can see the minimum criteria of four passenger seats required if an operator wishes to apply the exemption of displaying a Private Hire licence plate.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The provisions of S48 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows an authority to licence a vehicle as a private hire vehicle if it is satisfied that the vehicle is;
 - (i) Suitable in type, size and design for use as a private hire vehicle;
 - (ii) Not of such design and appearance as to lead any other person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage;
 - (iii) In a suitable mechanical condition;
 - (iv) Safe; and
 - (v) Comfortable.
- 2.2 In addition the FTA (Freight Transport Association) Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles National Inspection Standards states at Section 3.0 "Vehicles must be capable of carrying at least four and not more than eight passengers in addition to the driver". The relevant extract is provided at **Appendix 4**. This supports the Council's policy and Part C of the Council's Licensing Policy can be seen at **Appendix 5**.

- 2.3 The Department for Transport's Best Practice Guidance relating to Taxi and Private Hire Licensing outlines the following: -
 - 26. The legislation gives local authorities a wide range of discretion over the types of vehicle that they can license as taxis or private hire vehicles. Some authorities specify conditions that in practice can only be met by purpose-built vehicles but the majority license a range of vehicles.
 - 27. Normally, the best practice is for local licensing authorities to adopt the principle of specifying as many different types of vehicle as possible. Indeed, local authorities might usefully set down a range of general criteria, leaving it open to the taxi and private hire vehicle trades to put forward vehicles of their own choice which can be shown to meet those criteria. In that way there can be flexibility for new vehicle types to be readily taken into account.
 - 28. It is suggested that local licensing authorities should give very careful consideration to a policy which automatically rules out particular types of vehicle or prescribes only one type or a small number of types of vehicle. For example, the Department believes authorities should be particularly cautious about specifying only purpose-built taxis, with the strict constraint on supply that that implies. But of course the purpose-built vehicles are amongst those which a local authority could be expected to license. Similarly, it may be too restrictive to automatically rule out considering Multi-Purpose Vehicles, or to license them for fewer passengers than their seating capacity (provided of course that the capacity of the vehicle is not more than eight passengers).
- 2.4 The Vehicle Examination Report provided at **Appendix 6**, completed by the qualified NFDC examiner, states the nature of the failure. That being that the minimum seating capacity requirements are not met by the vehicle as it can only provide three passenger seats. In addition the spacing of the number plate needs to be addressed.
- 2.5 Following the failure, Mr Adams, Director of New Forest Executive Travel Ltd contacted the Licensing Manager to ask why the vehicle had failed. The Council's current position was explained, however Mr Adams would like to provide this executive vehicle to enhance his business offering to his executive clients. The vehicle is aimed at providing additional comfort and facilities and the provision of only three passengers he feels would not be detrimental to his clients or the Council. Emails from Mr Adams can be found at **Appendix 7**.
- 2.6 Mr Adams stated that a vehicle with only two seats has previously been licensed, however officers have not found any such licence in the historical records available.

3 RELEVANT POLICY

3.1 **Appendix 3** provides the Council's policy. Part I of the policy for Private Hire vehicle plate exemptions states that the minimum number of passengers for this type of vehicle is four.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This application is brought before the Sub-Committee as the vehicle does meet the current vehicle specifications, due to the number of passengers that it can carry. It should be noted that as a Private Hire Vehicle, all bookings will be made through the licensed operator, New Forest Executive Travel Ltd who are responsible for despatching the appropriate sized vehicles to customers. As the vehicle would be registered for pre-booked journeys only, it would not be available for flagging down or rank work.
- 4.2 The Sub-Committee should determine if this vehicle should be licensed as a private hire vehicle with this Council and also be exempted from the normal requirement to display council plates.

5. FINANCIAL, CRIME & DISORDER & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

6.1 There are no issues currently arising from this report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the Licensing Sub-Committee determines the application.

For further information, please contact:

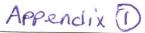
Background Papers:NFDC Statement of Principles

Christa Ferguson Licensing Manager Licensing Services Tel: (023) 8028 4681

Email: licensing@nfdc.gov.uk







Registration

No.

Date registered

with DVLA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 APPLICATION FOR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

To: Licensing Services, New Forest District Council, Appletree Court, Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7PA

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY USING A BLACK PEN

Model

APPLICANT	OPERATOR/EMPLOYER	ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTY
Surname: AOAMS	Name: New Forest Exect	Forenames: Surname:
Address: I, HOME FARM CLOSE	Tel: 30 - 8483312	Address:
Postcode: Sous WN. Tel:	If owner/driver a letter of contractual agreement from the operator must accompany this application.	Postcode:

C.C.

Colour

Class of vehicle

e.g. saloon, WAV

2. VEHICLE:

Make

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Please	note; If you are	driving a wh	neelchair	accessi	ble vehicle, co	ancil policy	requires that yo	ou hold a Wheelchair H	andling Certificate		
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presenting the vehicle at the garage. Staff at the depot will request sight of the fee receipt.)

12. Date licence and plates required (please allow a minimum of 5 working days from receipt of all

13. If you would like to collect the licence and plates from one of the NFDC's Information Offices, other than Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, please state where......

The Information you have provided will be kept securely on NFDC's licensing system. We may share your information internally for verification and regulatory purposes.

I apply for a licence subject to all conditions as may be contained in such licence and also to provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in force, relating to Private Hire Vehicles, all of which conditions and Act I hereby undertake to observe and perform. I accept that if I infringe or neglect to comply with any of the conditions or provisions of said Act subject to which the Licence is held, the same shall be liable to be revoked or not renewed by the Council. I hereby declare that the statements I make on this form are true.

I enclose the sum of £. \bigcirc being the fee payable for this application. I submit the insurance certificate, vehicle registration document or proof of ownership in respect of this vehicle and also the MOT certificate where the vehicle is $\overline{\text{THREE}}$ years old or older and will produce the vehicle inspection report prior to the collection of the licence plate. And in all cases where the applicant is an owner/driver a letter of contractual confirmation from the operator.

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Dated		 \sim	 1 7	20

Signed..

Des. Codes 1364948250 / 001318

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	number	character	C.1.1 NEW FOREST EXECUTING TRAVEL
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1	Date of first registration in the UK	08 12 2014	C.1.3 1 HOME FARM CLOSE HYTHE
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	Туре		SO45 6JN
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	Variant	GCTBAQ1	ACQUIRED VEHICLE ON 23 07 2017 Please write in black ink and CAPITAL LETTERS.
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D.5	Body type	4 DOOR SALOON	Title (for example, Ms, Rev and so on) or business name:
[X]	Taxation class	DIESEL CAR	First names:
[D.6]	Suspension Type		Surname:
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P.2	Max. net power (kW)	190	Driving licence number of the new keeper (not required by law)
E	ViN/Chassis/Frame No.	WAUZZZ4H9FN025182	Present mileage
P.5	Engine number	CTBA021891	(not required by law) 15
F.1	Max. permissible mass (exc. m/c)		R 16 S 17
G	Mass in service	2010	
Q	Power/Weight ratio (kW/kg) (only for motorcycles)		7. Changes to current vehicle of distinct opinion H 19
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Selling or transferring your vehicle to a motor trader, insurer or dismantler - Please fill in and return to DVLA (see notes over the page)

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Selling or transferring your vehicle privately

Vehicle tax or Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) can't be passed on when a vehicle changes hands.

What you, the registered keeper must do.

- fill in section 6 (give the name and UK address of the new keeper)
- fill in section 10 (V5C/2) and give it to the new keeper
- notify DVLA of the sale/transfer online at www.gov.uk/sold-bought-vehicle or
- send the V5C to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BA

If you want to keep the registration number, you must do this before you sell/transfer it. You can do this online at www.gov.uk/keep-registration-number

What the new keeper/person buying the vehicle must do:

- tax the vehicle immediately using section 10 (V5C/2).
- keep section 10 (V5C/2) until they get their new V5C

 send you an acknowledgment letter within 4 weeks to confirm you are no longer liable for the vehicle, and issue an automatic refund of vehicle tax (if applicable) within 4-6 weeks. If you paid vehicle tax by Direct Debit, this will be cancelled.

If you do not get an acknowledgment letter or refund from us within the above time-scales you should contact us at www.gov.uk/contact-the-dvla as you could be liable for the vehicle and may get a penalty and/or be prosecuted.

Your name and/or address details.

• if the details in section 5 are wrong or you want to change your name or address, fill in section 6 and send the whole certificate to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BA. Do not tick the new keeper box. You should also make sure you tell us about these changes on Pagence is more information at www.gov.uk/vehicle-registration

Your information may be disclosed in a number of lawful circumstances.

IMPORTANT

THESE NOTES ARE FOR YOUR GUIDANCE

To ensure full protection under your policy it is essential to notify your broker of any change to the details previously supplied such as:

(a) Change of address, occupation, vehicle(s) declared or use of your car/vehicle.

(b) The drivers covered (especially the inclusion of any person under 21 years of age.)
(c) Motoring convictions

and/or summons pending/ accidents/physical condition of any person likely to drive.

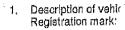
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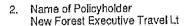
It is an offence if any person for It is an offence it any person for the purpose of obtaining the grant of any license to himself/herself or any other person knowingly makes any false statement, or for the purpose of obtaining the issue of a certificate of insurance or of or a certificate of insurance or or a certificate of security Under the relevant law applicable in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Island of Guernsey, the Island of Jersey and the Island of Alderney, makes any false statement or mitterial withholds. material any withholds information.

If you wish to cancel the policy you must return the certificate. If this certificate refers to a specific vehicle and you are replacing your vehicle, this certificate must be returned to your broker.

CERTIFICATE OF MOTOR INSURANCE

Certificate no.





- Effective date of the commencement of insurance for the purposes of the relevant law 18/08/2017
- Date of expiry of insurance 09/04/2018 at 23:59
- ANY AUTHORISED DRIVER OVER 25 5. Persons or Classes of Persons entitled to drive

Limitations as to use For social, domestic and pleasure purposes and in connection with the Policyholder's business including carriage of passengers for private hire.

The policy does not cover -

Use for racing, pace-making, speed testing, rallies, trails or competition, or use for hire or reward (other than private hire which shall mean the letting of the vehicle supplied to the hirer direct from the Policyholder's garage).

I hereby certify that the policy to which this certificate relates satisfies the requirements of the relevant law applicable in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Island of Guernsey, the Island of Jersey and the Island of Alderney.

SIEVE FEMIS Chief Executive, UK & Western Europe Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc Authorised Insurer

Note: For full details of the insurance cover reference should be made to the policy,

ADVICE TO THIRD PARTIES - NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS CERTIFICATE AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS AS A THIRD PARTY TO MAKE A CLAIM,

"THIS CERTIFICATE OF MOTOR INSURANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED ON A LASER PRINTER AND IS NOT VALID IF IT HAS BEEN ALTERED IN ANYWAY"

Suspension or Termination

If for any reason the insurance is suspended or terminated during its currency the certificate must be returned to the insurer. Failure to comply with this obligation is an offence under the Road Traffic Acts.

Windscreen Repair or Replacement Service:

You will need to show your Certificate of Motor insurance to the supplier. There is a £60 policy excess.

ORIGINAL SEEN

Ret'd to Climnt. 21.8.17

Officer's Name: /

Signature:

Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance pic (No.93792) Registered in England and Water at 61 Marice Court, Chart way, nutsham, West Sussex, RF12 1XL. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Regulation Authority an

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GOV.UK

Check if a vehicle is taxed and has an MOT

BETA

✓ Taxed

Tax due: 01 July 2018

►Incorrect tax status?

✓ MOT

Expires:

08 December 2017

► Incorrect MOT status?

If you've just bought this vehicle the <u>tax (https://www.gov.uk/vehicletax)</u> or <u>SORN (https://www.gov.uk/make-a-sorn)</u> doesn't come with it. You'll need to <u>tax (https://www.gov.uk/vehicletax)</u> it before driving it.

· Vehicle make: AUDI

Date of first registration: December 2014

Year of manufacture: 2014

• Cylinder capacity (cc): 2967 cc

• CO₂Emissions: 158 g/km

Fuel type: DIESELExport marker: No

· Vehicle status: Tax not due

• Vehicle colour: **BLACK**

• Vehicle type approval: M1

• Wheelplan: 2 AXLE RIGID BODY

• Revenue weight: 2585kg

Tax rates:

View tax rates

The vehicle tax rates are only available if you have the latest 11 digit reference number from the V5C registration certificate (logbook)

► Incorrect vehicle details?

Return to GOV.UK

Print this page

Search for another vehicle (/)

DVLA services

Tax your vehicle (https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax)

Register your vehicle as off the road (SORN) (https://www.gov.uk/make-a-sorn)

Tell DVLA you've sold, transferred or bought a vehicle (https://www.gov.uk/sold-bought-vehicle)

Report an untaxed vehicle (https://www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle)

Check you're not buying a stolen vehicle (https://www.gov.uk/checks-when-buying-a-used-car)

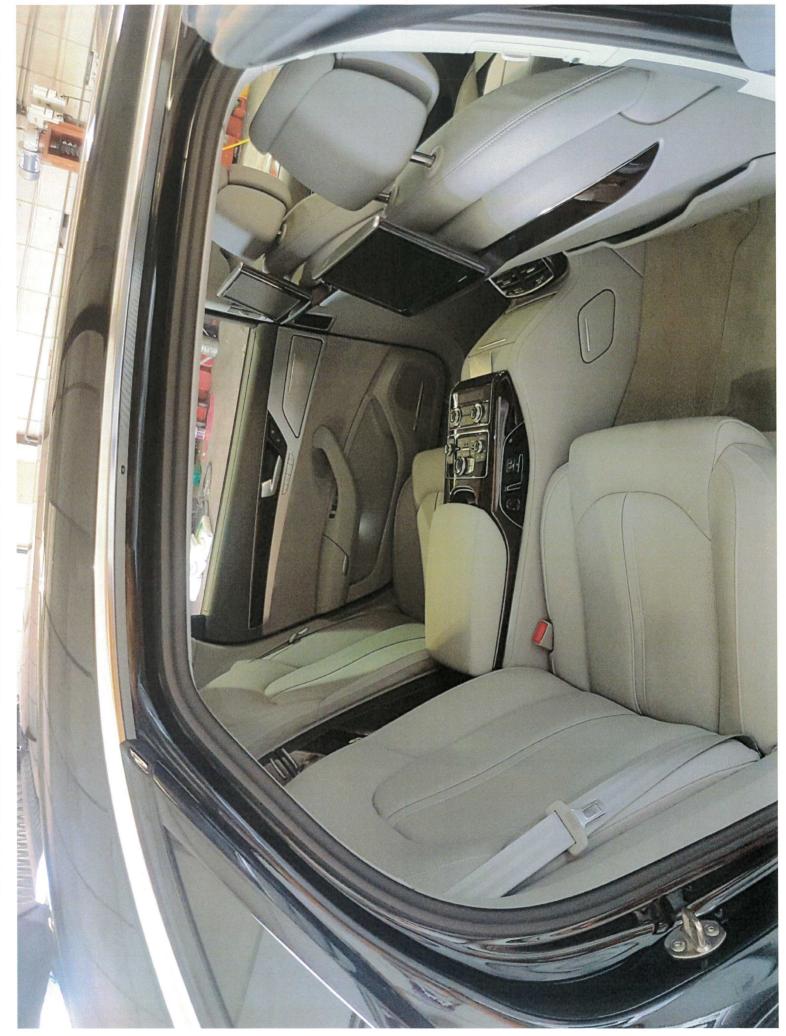
DVSA services

Check the MOT history of a vehicle (https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-history)

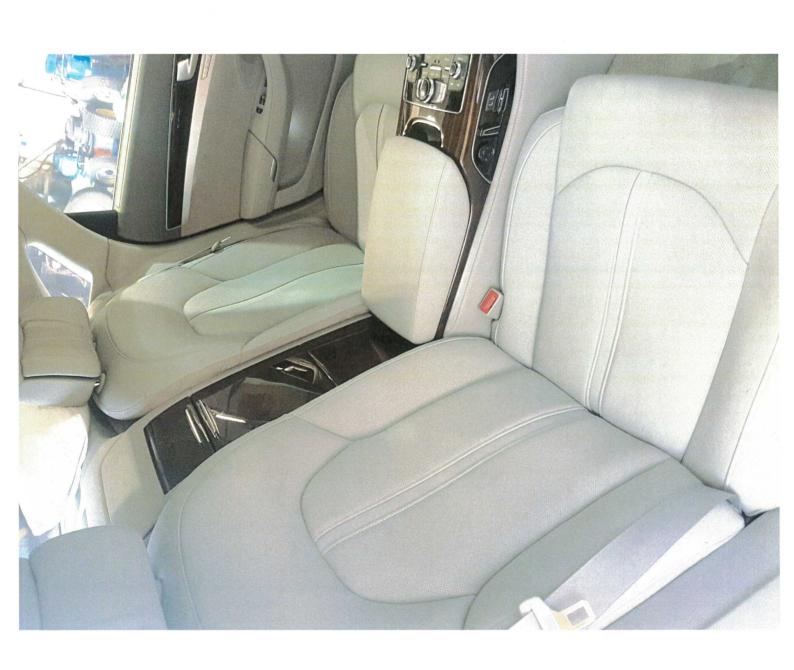
Report a vehicle with no MOT (https://www.gov.uk/report-no-mot)

MOTs for vehicles registered in Northern Ireland (https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/motoring/mot-and-vehicle-testing)

Appendix 2



Page 13





PARTI

Additional Policy for the Determination of Applications for Private Hire Vehicle Plate Exemption

Applications should be made on the appropriate form. Each application will be considered on its individual merits by an appropriately authorised officer of the Council. Each vehicle will be inspected by the officer determining the application.

Vehicles

In view of the vast numbers of makes and models of vehicles available it is preferred not to produce a definitive list of vehicle makes and models that might be approved has not been prepared. The granting of an exemption will be based on the cost, reputation, specification, appearance, perception and superior comfort levels of a vehicle. However, the following will be minimum requirements in relation to any vehicle in respect of which an exemption is sought:

- 1. Executive saloon, hatchback or estate vehicles designed to be licensed for 4 passengers, allowing sufficient space for adult passengers to travel comfortably.
- 2. Engine size 1900cc or greater.
- 3. A range of vehicles capable of carrying in excess of 4 passengers will be considered provided they meet a higher specification for that make and model.
- 4. An exemption will only be considered for a vehicle that can seat more than 4 passengers only where this is provided with comfort. Each seat must be of adequate dimensions and must permit direct access into and out of the vehicle without the need to move, remove, fold down, pass over or slide any seat. No vehicle modifications from the manufacturer's specification are acceptable.
- 5. The vehicle must have a minimum specification of at least air conditioning, climate control, electric windows, central locking and headrests for each passenger.
- 6. The vehicle must be in immaculate condition, without damage, dents, defects or blemishes to the external bodywork, trim or seating.

Type of work

Applications will only be considered from the proprietors of vehicles which undertake exclusively "executive" type work, with all bookings to be of an executive nature and made under written contract (which may include bookings made electronically and by email). For example:

- 1. Corporate bookings to transport employees and/or clients on corporate business journeys; and/or
- 2. Airport and other 'special' journeys where the client specifically requests a vehicle of a prestige specification at the time of booking and pays a recognisable higher fee for that service compared to that charged for a non exempt vehicle.

Additional Conditions Relating to Private Hire Vehicles with a Plate Exemption

The following conditions will apply to any private hire vehicle which is granted an exemption from the requirement to display the rear licence plate, and are in addition to the standard private hire vehicle licensing conditions applying at the time:

- 1. The vehicle will only be used for "executive" work, where the booking has been made by written contract and not for any other type of private hire work.
- 2. The following must be carried in the vehicle at all times and must be produced upon request to an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer:
 - A) The exemption notice.
 - B) The private hire vehicle licence plate.
 - C) The vehicle licence conditions.
- 3. The (small) internal vehicle identification badge will be displayed in the front window of the vehicle at all times.
- 4. The vehicle will NOT have a meter fitted.
- 5. The vehicle will not display any company or third party numbers, adverts or promotional material of any type.

Additional Conditions for Drivers of Exempted Private Hire Vehicles

- Male drivers are required to wear a suit or jacket and trousers plus shirt and a tie at all times. Female drivers must follow an equivalent dress code, generally recognised as 'smart office'. This dress code must be followed at all times the vehicle is used to undertake a booking or contract. Jackets may be removed where weather conditions require it.
- 2. The driver of an exempted vehicle is not required to wear their driver's identification badge, but must carry their badge with them at all times.

Please Note: Drivers of private hire vehicles that do not display a private hire vehicle plate are not exempt from the seat belt legislation and <u>MUST</u> wear a seat belt while driving the vehicle at all times.



The purpose of the HC and PHV test is to confirm vehicles meet these more stringent standards. Vehicles must be submitted fully prepared for the test. It is not intended that the test be used in lieu of a regular preventative maintenance programme. If, in the opinion of the vehicle examiner, the vehicle has not been fully prepared, the test will be terminated and a further full test shall be required. It is an offence under the road traffic regulations to use an unroadworthy vehicle on the public highway.

HC proprietors and PHV drivers/owners and operators failing to maintain their vehicles in a safe and roadworthy condition may have their vehicle licence suspended, revoked or their licensing application refused by the local licensing authority. In addition, licence holders risk the suspension or revocation of their driver or operator licences by the local licensing authority.

This best practice guide should be read in conjunction with Vehicle & Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publication 'MOT Inspection Manual – Private Passenger and Light Commercial Vehicle Testing', ISBN 978-0-9549352-5-2. This best practice guide provides a working document for those who inspect, maintain and prepare vehicles for inspection prior to being issued with a hackney carriage or private hire licence. Although detailed in its content the best practice guide is not exhaustive.

However, in assessing the mechanical condition of a vehicle, it is more likely an item which would ordinarily pass an MOT test with an advisory note, could fail the HC and PHV test.

2 Novelty vehicles (stretched limousines)

This section of the best practice guide offers advice to local licensing authorities on the requirements for licensing novelty vehicles. The standard of the test for novelty vehicles will be at the same standard as for other private hire vehicles. That is, as a basic inspection standard, those laid down in the 'MOT Inspection Manual – Private Passenger and Light Commercial Vehicle Testing' issued by VOSA and this best practice guide. (For the purpose of clarity, novelty vehicles in this guide will refer to stretch limousines only until such times as further guidance is obtained on any other such vehicle, ie fire tenders etc.)



A novelty vehicle shall only be registered as a private hire vehicle if it complies with the following conditions.

- Vehicles with no more than eight passenger seats as indicated on the V5C. The V5C will state the number of seats and must be produced to the local licensing authority prior to the vehicle being licensed or inspected. If the number of seats differs to what is indicated on the V5C, then contact VOSA and your local area DVLA office immediately. Failure to produce a valid and current V5C for the vehicle to be tested could result in refusal to inspect the vehicle
- Evidence of either European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) or Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) being presented for inspection
- Local licensing authorities may consider, as novelty vehicles are not factory produced, that a recommended vehicle maintenance inspection be applied every 10 weeks. The frequency of maintenance inspections is recommended by Traffic Commissioners, VOSA and the National Limousine and Chauffeur Association (NLCA)
- The inspection standards to be applied to novelty vehicles are the same standards as those applied to other hackney carriage and private hire vehicles with the following additions:
 - Any additional item previously mentioned in this paragraph with regard to seating capacity, the production of the relevant documents and frequency of vehicle inspections
 - See part 2, section 4 Tyres and road wheels. Reference in this section is made to tyre rating to be applied to novelty vehicles
 - See part 2, section 12 Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) markings should be checked to ensure compliance, seating capacities and undue stresses

Local licensing authorities are strongly advised to obtain a declaration, from the operator of a licensed novelty vehicle, that the side facing seats will never be used to carry passengers under 16 years of age, regardless of whether the vehicle is fitted with or without seat belts.

It is strongly advised that notices forbidding children to be carried in side facing seats are displayed in prominent positions, ie on entry to the passenger compartment and on either side of the passenger compartment. Local licensing authorities may also require additional outward facing signs adjacent to all entrance/exit doors to the passenger compartment.



General information

Only vehicles complying with the following conditions will generally be considered for licensing as private hire vehicles.

- Cars fitted with at least four doors and four wheels
- Right-hand drive vehicles with the exception of stretch limousines (where applicable)
- Vehicles with adequate space for luggage
- Vehicles must be capable of carrying at least four and not more than eight passengers in addition to the driver
- ₩ With the exception of stretch limousines, vehicles will not be accepted with blacked out windows. Passengers being carried in the vehicle must be visible from the outside. In exceptional circumstances, tinted windows may be acceptable
- To allow a thorough examination of a vehicle or any part thereof, it must be presented for test in a clean condition. The vehicle presented will fail the test if, in the opinion of the vehicle examiner, the vehicle is so dirty that it would be unreasonable for the test to be carried out
- A test will not be carried out unless the licence fee/ examination fee has been paid in advance

Statement of undertakings and declaration

In the interests of road and passenger safety, the licensed driver/ owner or operator undertakes to make proper arrangements so that licensed vehicles are kept in a roadworthy condition at all times.





PART C

The Examination & Assessment of Vehicles

Vehicle Assessment

This part of the document has been produced in order to assist licensed drivers, hackney carriage proprietors and private hire operators. It sets out in clear and simple terms the items which are assessed and tested and the minimum standards which must be reached for licensed vehicles to pass the mandatory NFDC vehicle inspection(s).

Licensed vehicles are working vehicles which are liable to cover large mileages over short periods whilst carrying fare paying passengers. As a consequence the Council sets high standards for those vehicles which it does licence and it expects vehicle owners to ensure that the standards are maintained throughout the licensed period. Vehicles eight years and older are tested on application and thereafter at six monthly intervals.

The items marked with an asterisk (*) are also examined during the MOT test and further requirements for assessment can be found in the current MOT Testers Manual. Where items are not subject to MOT examination then NFDC requirements are set out in the following document.

Inevitable some check items will be open to subjective judgement on the part of the NFDC examiner. NFDC will whenever possible minimise any possible variances by using the same, usually two, experienced and qualified technicians.

The vehicles test fee is included in the licence fee; therefore, providing the vehicle is in satisfactory condition and passes the test no further payment is necessary. However should the vehicle fail the test then a re-test fee will be charged at the current published rate. This fee must be paid before a re-test is carried out. The garage will require sight of the re-test fee payment prior to examining the vehicle. Re-tests are not encouraged as the vehicle should be presented in a satisfactory condition at the initial test.

Taxi Meter

The meter should accurately record the time and distance covered. It should be set to charge at the prevailing rate and this should be accurately reflected by way of charges. The meter should be sealed.

Interior

- **Trim** clean, properly fixed in place with no rough or jagged edges. Window and door handles properly fixed in place and working effectively.
- Seat Belts clean, not stretched, ripped, torn or worn. Properly fixed to allowable anchorage points with locks and buckles that operate smoothly and effectively. Belts must be available for the driver and front passenger, and in vehicles first registered from 1987 onwards, for passengers in rear seats.
- Seats properly and securely bolted in place, on smoothly operating runners as applicable. Coverings should be clean and not worn, damaged or split.

- Carpets clean and properly fitted. No holes or loose flapping ends or edges.
- Cleanliness clean and polished interior and glasswork.

Electrical Equipment and Accessories

- **Obligatory Front Lights** working with constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses. White light to be shown at front.
- Headlamps Dipped working and properly adjusted with constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses.
- Headlamps Main working with constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses
 and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses.
- Indicators Front working with constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses. White or amber light to be shown with a flashing rate of approximately 1-2 flashes per second.
- **Horn** must function and be audible to another road user. The horn control must be accessible to the driver.
- Screen Washers delivers sufficient water to the windscreen to enable the windscreen to be cleared in conjunction with the windscreen wipers. All jets to be operative. Where rear washers are fitted the same requirements will apply.
- Screen Wipers must work on demand and move over an adequate area of the windscreen. The rubbers must cover the whole length of the blade and not be cracked, perished or have solidified.
- Instrument Controls etc all work to manufacturer's specification.
- Obligatory Rear Lights working with constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses. Red lights to be shown at rear with no white light to be visible.
- Brake Lights work when footbrake applied with ignition switched on. With a constant, appropriate and even brightness. Red light to be showing with no white light visible.
- Indicators Rear working with constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses. Amber or red lights to be shown with a flashing rate of approximately 1-2 flashes per second. No white light to be visible.
- Reversing Lights working with a constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses. Lights to work only when ignition is switched on and reverse gear selected.

- **High Density Rear Fog Lamps** working with constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses. To be wired so as to operate only when dipped headlights or main beam selected. Red light to be showing with no white light visible.
- **Number Plate Illumination** working with constant, appropriate and even brightness. Lenses and reflectors to be clean with no rust and no cracks or holes in the lenses.

Engine

- **Performance** should be such that the vehicle is able to perform to manufacturer's specification on pulling power, whilst carrying a full complement of passengers.
- Excess Wear components of the engine should not be excessively worn, causing knocks, rattles etc.
- Oil Burning must not be smoking from exhaust.
- **Emissions** must be discharging a clear emission.

Steering

- Box & Idler units should be securely mounted to the chassis frame or body shell with no free play or oil leaks.
- Racks units should be securely mounted to the chassis frame or body shell with no free play or oil leaks.
- Power Assisted Steering units should be securely mounted to the chassis frame or body shell with no free play or oil leaks. Hydraulic lines and unions should be free from leaks and generally be in good condition.
- Joints & Couplings should be secure with no excessive play.
- Swivel Assemblies should be secure with no excessive play.
- **Gaiters** must be fitted as appropriate and in good condition. Not split, cracked, perished or rendered inoperative by some other method.
- Radius Arms & Tie Rods should be in good, sound condition and not excessively worn. Rubbers and seals should not be oil contaminated, split, perished or badly cracked.
- **Steering Wheel** should be in good sound condition and securely mounted to the steering column with no free play.
- **Steering Column** should be no movement whatsoever, in any direction, other than that due to the design of the mechanism.
- Wheel Bearings there should be no excessive wear or play.

• Bias (Left/Right) – vehicle should drive in a straight line and not pull or veer to the left or to the right.

Exhaust System

- **Silencer** the exhaust system should be complete and in good, sound condition. It should be effective so as to reduce the exhaust noise to a level considered to be average for the vehicle.
- Mounting Points should be secure and in good condition so as to fully support the
 exhaust system.
- Leaks there must be no sign of exhaust leaks from any part of the system.

Bodywork

- Cleanliness & Condition exterior should be clean and polished. It must not have any bad dents or tears. Bumpers, number plates and vehicle ID plates should be securely fixed to the rear of the vehicle (not displayed in window).
- Chassis must be of sound condition with no undue corrosion or visible distortions.

Suspension

- Coil Springs should be complete and not fractured or with a cross section so reduced by wear or corrosion that its strength is seriously reduced. They should be properly seated giving adequate clearance of the axle or suspension with the bump stop or chassis.
- **Damper Struts** should be securely fixed and show no damage or corrosion of the casing to the extent that the unit does not function. Should have an adequate damping effect on the suspension and not give excessive bounce.
- Mounting Rubbers should be in place and in good condition, not cracked, distorted or perished. Should not show signs of excessive wear.
- Anti Roll Bushes should be in place and in good condition, not cracked, distorted or perished. Should not show signs of excessive wear.
- Trailing Arms should be in place and in good condition, not cracked, distorted or perished. Should not show signs of excessive wear.
- Trapezoidal Links should be in place and in good condition, not cracked, distorted or perished. Should not show signs of excessive wear.
- Elliptical Springs & Shackles should be securely fixed and in good serviceable condition with no broken or cracked spring leaves. Shackles, pins and bushes should not show signs of excessive wear.
- Hydro-Lastic Units should be securely fixed and in good serviceable condition, functioning normally and with no fluid leaks or cracked, perished pipes.

Gearbox & Transmission

- **Clutch** well adjusted with no judder or slipping. Pedal rubber must be in place and not excessively worn.
- Gearbox Selection all gears attainable at first attempt with smooth changes.
- Transmission Noise must not be excessive.
- Syncromesh must work on all gears, where fitted, with no crunching.
- **Prop Shaft Universal Joints** must be in good condition with no play in either the universal joints or the central bearing.
- Front Wheel Drive Shafts must be in good condition with no play or excessive wear, with no knocking on full lock.
- Final Drive must not be excessively noisy or suffer from bad oil leaks.
- Automatic Transmission Inhibitor Switch must only be able to start vehicle when Park or Neutral has been selected.

Braking System

- Hydraulic Fluid filled to correct level and with no air bubbles when footbrake operated.
- Master Cylinder firmly fixed to vehicle and in good working order with no leaks or excessive corrosion.
- **Pipelines & Unions** properly fixed to vehicle with correct clips and hangers. Should be soundly constructed with no corrosion or leaks.
- **Flexible Hoses** should be correctly fitted and protected as appropriate, be in good condition with no sign of perishing, cracking, bulging or leaking.
- **Discs & Callipers** discs should not be excessively worn or contaminated by oil, brake fluid or grease. Callipers to be securely mounted and in good working order.
- Wheel Cylinders should be firmly mounted and in good working condition. Seals and rubbers should not be perished, cracked or split. There should be no leaks and the pistons should not be seized.
- Foot Pedal the fulcrum and clevis pin must not show signs of undue wear or play and the pedal rubber must be in place and not badly worn. The pedal travel should not be excessive. It must have adequate reserve travel and not be subject to creep under sustained pressure.
- Handbrake Adjustment must be securely mounted and not be subject to excessive travel. As a general rule, three notches to full on covers the majority of vehicles.

- **Servo Equipment** should be securely fixed to the vehicle and be in good working condition.
- **Mechanical Linkages** should be in good condition, not suffer from excessive wear or intermittent operation and be properly lubricated as necessary.
- Primary Brake Efficiency % minimum acceptable level is 65%.
- Secondary Brake Efficiency % minimum acceptable level is 25%.
- Brake Bias Left should not pull to left when brakes operate.
- Brake Bias Right should not pull to right when brakes operate.
- Brake Straight when brakes are applied, vehicle should brake in a straight line.

Tyres

- Tyres all tyres must be 'first life', not retreaded or remoulded. It must be of the correct size, in good condition with no bulges, cracks or cuts and not have any steel showing. The tread depth should be a minimum of 2mm over the whole of the tread area. The pressure of which must be as per manufacturer's instructions.
- **Spare Tyre** the tyre must be 'first life', not retreaded or remoulded. It must be of the correct size, in good condition with no bulges, cracks or cuts and not have any steel showing. The tread depth should be a minimum of 2mm over the whole of the tread area. The pressure of which must be as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Spare Wheel must be the original option as designed and delivered by the vehicle manufacturer. In the event of the need arising for the fitting of a space saver tyre or the use of a run flat tyre or an inflation kit then the appropriate remedial action to replace with 'new', as per original specification, must be undertaken upon completion of the journey.

General

- **Door Locks & Handles** should all operate to specification and be secure. Hinge pins not to be excessively worn and there should not be any cracks around hinges, locks or striker plates.
- **Windows** should operate to specification. Windscreens should not be cracked or starred so as to impair driver vision.
- Oil Leaks vehicle must not suffer from serious oil leaks.
- Fire Extinguisher should conform to the current recognised standard and minimum rating for a public service vehicle. It must be located and fixed in an appropriate position within the vehicle.
- **Mirrors** minimum requirement is for one centrally mounted interior mirror and an exterior mirror on both off and near side. They must be in good condition with no cracks in the glass nor have reflectors badly corroded.



VEHICLE EXAMINATION REPORT

		OPERATOR	New Forest Executive Travel				
		Vehicle Reg No					
New DISTRICT	Forest	Make & Model	Audi A8	Audi A8			
DISTRICT	COUNCIL	Colour	Black				
		Mileage		49478			
		Hackney / Private Hire Plate	No	New Plate			
ELECTRICAL		EXHAUST SYSTEM		Flexible Hoses			
Lights		Silencer		Discs & Callipers			
Washer / Wipers		Mounting points		Wheel Cylinders			
Horn		Leaks		Foot Pedal Travel			
INTERIOR		BODYWORK		H'brake Adjustment			
Trim		Cleanliness / Condition		Servo Equipment			
Seat belts		Chassis		Mech Linkages			
Seats	\boxtimes	SUSPENSION		TYRES			
Carpets		Coil springs		F/O side			
Cleanliness		Dampers / Struts		F/N side			
ENGINE		Mounting rubbers		R/N side			
Performance		Anti-roll Bushes		R/O side			
Excess wear		Bottom ball joints		Spare			
Oil burning		Elip, Springs. Shkls		GENERAL			
Emissions		G/BOX/T'MISSION		Door Locks / Handles			
STEERING		Clutch		Windows			
Box & Idler		Gearbox - Selection		Oil Lleaks			
Rack		Transmission noise		Fire Extinguisher			
P.A.S.		Syncromesh		Mirrors			
Joints & Couplings		Prop-Shaft U/J's		Door Step Alarm (A/V)			
Swivel assemblies		F.W.D. Shafts		LOLER Lift Test			
Gaiters		Final drive		Wheelchair Ramp			
Radius Arms, Tie Ro	ods \square	Auto trans inhib switch		Wheelchair Restraints			
Steering wheel		BRAKES		Taxi Plate Display			
Steering column		Hydraulic fluid		HCV Roof Sign			
Wheel bearings		Master cylinder		Taxi meter tariff			
Bias - Left/Right		Pipelines / Unions		Road test			
REMARKS / COMM	ENTS						
		its not met. (3 passenger seat	s only)				
Advise number plate	letter spacing	ould b					
RE-TEST*	No	IMPORTANT					
RECEIPT NO:		This Report refers only to the items listed. Opinions expressed with					
PASS* No regard to various items are founded on external examination no dismantling work is carried out. Accordingly, The New For District Council cannot accept liability for latent defects.							

Examiner

Date

Christa Ferguson



From:

New Forest Executive Trav

Sent:

23 September 2017 19:32

To:

Christa Ferguson

Subject:

Re: failed vehicle test

Thanks you for you latest E Mail

Yes we will be looking for a plate exemption

One of the Volvos you have on record was a long wheel base car with only 2 seats in the rear, but it was licenced to carry 4, why I don't know but it was tested at your Hounsdown depot and passed

as made to carry only 3 passengers not 4, it is not a conversion, Audi made it this way because of the needs of the business traveller have changed over the past years, they need room to work and also relax, this car does both for them

I believe I can appeal to a magistrates court if I think the licence should have been granted, and I ask that you let me know, how I do this

I have checked the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1976 part 2, Licensing of private hire vehicles and there seems to be no mention of seats

Thank you for your time in this matter

Regards

Douglas J Adams

New Forest Executive Travel

125

www.newforestexecutivetravel.co.uk

From: Christa Ferguson < Christa.Ferguson@NFDC.GOV.UK>

To: 'New Forest Executive Travel' · Sent: Friday, 22 September 2017 Subject: RE: failed vehicle test

Apologies for the confusion

The previous email relates to the Audi A8 registration we do not hold any records for the vehicle licensed, but both were for 4 passengers.

. We have searched our database and although you have had two Volvo S80s

As stated as a las failed the vehicle test on seating requirement the licensing committee will be asked to consider your application for a vehicle that does not meet our current vehicle testing criteria.

The report will be written and you will be notified when a suitable date has been confirmed with the democratic services officer.

For the purposes of the report, could you confirm if you would be looking for a plate exemption for this vehicle, should the committee decide to grant the application

Regards Christa

Christa Ferguson

Licensing Manager New Forest District Council

Tel: **023 8028 5588**

<u>Christa.Ferguson@nfdc.gov.uk</u> newforest.gov.uk





From: New Forest Executive Travel **Sent:** 19 September 2017 23:40

To: Christa Ferguson

Subject: Re: failed vehicle test

Ok lets start again

as **passed** by NFDC a few years ago, **this vehicle was a Volvo S80** and had only **3 passenger** seats as does the one you have just failed an Audi A8L

So why was the Volvo Passed then but the Audi has been failed now

I believe I can appeal and I would like the information of how I can do this

Regards

Douglas J Adams

Yes we would like to have exemption for the Audi A8L VRN

New Forest Executive Travel

www.newforestexecutivetravel.co.uk

From: Christa Ferguson < Christa. Ferguson@NFDC.GOV.UK>

To: 'New Forest Executive Travel' Sent: Tuesday, 19 September 20 Subject: RE: failed vehicle test

Mr Adams

Thank you for your email regarding the failure of the vehicle as this vehicle does meet the current standards required by national guidance and Policy, we are unable to grant a vehicle licence under officer delegation. Therefore this application will be heard by Members of a Licensing sub-committee who will consider this case. Could I confirm that you would also be applying for a plate exemption for this vehicle, to include in your fleet? We will contact you when a date for the hearing has been set, however if you could confirm my last point, that would be appreciated.

Regards

Christa Ferguson

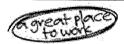
Licensing Manager
New Forest District Council
Talk 222 2222 5522

Tel: **023 8028 5588**

<u>Christa.Ferguson@nfdc.gov.uk</u> newforest.gov.uk



New Forest InTouch app



From: New Forest Executive Travel [* Sent: 18 September 2017 18:16

To: Christa Ferguson

Subject: Re: failed vehicle test

I would like the chance to speak to you before I take this to appeal as NFDC has, in the past, licenced one of my cars that only had three seats

Volvo S80 Blue in colour

Please advise

Regards

Douglas J Adams

www.newforestexecutivetravel.co.uk

From: Christa Ferguson < Christa.Ferguson@NFDC.GOV.UK >

To:

Sent: Monday, 18 September Subject: FW: failed vehicle test

Mr and Mrs Adams

I have been advised that a vehicle that you submitted for a vehicle test failed due to the number of passengers that the vehicle can carry (that being only 3).

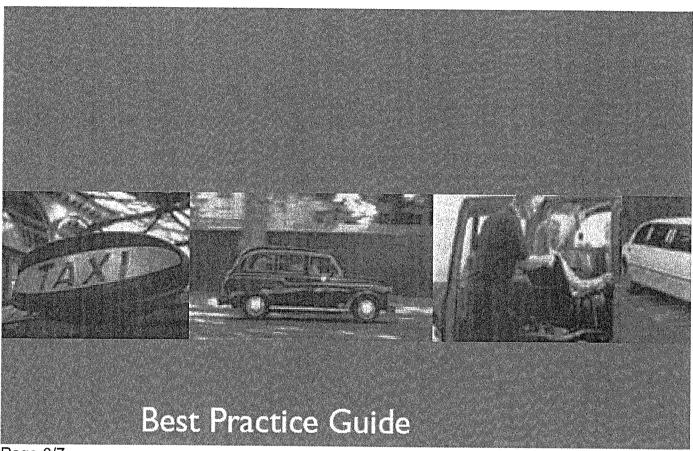
National guidance (as below) states that a vehicle must be constructed or adapted to carry a minimum of **four** passengers in comfort. Clearly this is not the case with

Regards Christa

This is the FTA National inspection standards best practice guide, supported by VOSA.

http://www.fta.co.uk/export/sites/fta/ galleries/downloads/vehicle testing/Hackney Carriage document 0812.pdf

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire National inspection standards



Page 6/7

3 General information

Only vehicles complying with the following conditions will generally be considered for licensing as private hire vehicles

- -- Cars fitted with at least four doors and four wheels
- Right-hand drive vehicles with the exception of stretch limousines (where applicable)
- Vehicles with adequate space for luggage
- ■■ Vehicles must be capable of carrying at least four and not more than eight passengers in addition to the driver

