

Appendix I - Exemptions from Displaying Licence Plates

1. Exemptions from Displaying Licence Plates

- 1.1 Under Section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Council may in certain circumstances exempt a vehicle from displaying licence plates and at the same time exempt the driver from displaying a badge.
- 1.2 Plate exemption will only be available for certain vehicles operating in certain circumstances. The plates and signs are there as a readily visible method to identify a licensed vehicle and to protect public safety. However, it is acknowledged that there may be grounds where the display of plates may work to the disadvantage of the customer, a situation acknowledged by the Council.
- 1.3 The Council will therefore accept applications for the display of plates to be exempted where the vehicle is considered to be a luxury class vehicle providing executive services to businesses and individuals. Exemptions will not be given to vehicles carrying out normal private hire duties which includes vehicles such as limousines used for airport and other holiday transport, parties, proms, and other typical private hire functions.
- 1.4 If an exemption is granted from displaying licence plates, the following additional conditions will be added to the private hire vehicle licence, in addition to the relevant standard licence conditions for all private hire vehicles:
 - When operating under the discreet plate policy the windscreen badge issued by the Council will be displayed at the nearside of the front windscreen at all times.
 - The Exemption Notice issued by the Council in respect of the licensed private hire vehicle will be carried in the vehicle at all times and will be produced upon request to an authorised officer of the Council or any Police Officer.
 - Other than the windscreen badge, the proprietor will not display in, on or from the vehicle any advertisement, signage, logos, or insignia advertising the operating company or the vehicle's status as a private hire vehicle, nor any such material relating to the company that has hired the vehicle.
 - When issued with an Exemption Notice, the vehicle will not be required to display any other signs which the Council may at any time require private hire vehicles to display, other than no smoking/no vaping signs or other signs which the Council considers necessary for public safety or legal compliance reasons. Signs must be placed discreetly but must be visible to occupants of the vehicle.
 - If a taximeter is installed within the vehicle and is used to calculate the fare, it shall be installed in such a manner that it can be concealed from normal view when operating under plate exemption.

- During the period of the exemption notice, the driver shall not wear the private hire driver's badge but will have it on their person and make it available for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council, a Police Officer, or a passenger, on request.
- 1.5 At all times during the period of the exemption notice, the driver of the vehicle will be a member of the Chauffeur's Guild and will be appropriately dressed in either a formal chauffeur's uniform or a business suit with collar and tie. The Council will accept more informal clothing where there is evidence to show that this was requested by the hirer.
 - 1.6 When issued, the discreet plate is required to be displayed in the lower nearside corner of the front windscreen at all times. The licence plates are to be carried in the boot of the vehicle at all times.
 - 1.7 The exemption only applies to work for business clients or similar and not routine private hire work including events such as prom nights.
 - 1.8 Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the exemption being rescinded.