

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR LICENSING COMMITTEE
19 MARCH 2012**

DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING STATISTICS

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES

Current number of licensed HCVs	299 (as of 15.03.12 – tbc)
Current pending HCV applications	3 (as of 15.03.12 – tbc)
London-style/wheelchair-accessible vehicles	77 (25.75%)
Saloons	224 (74.25%)
Approx average age of HCVs	11.5 years
Oldest HCVs	21 years old
Number of HCVs more than 10 years old	40 (13.37%)
Number of HCVs more than 15 years old	22 (7.35%)
Majority of vehicles are between 3 and 8 years old	
Most popular HCV make/model	Vauxhall (77) of which 48 are Zafiras Toyota (35) of which 28 are Avensis, Volkswagen (26) of which 18 are Sharan
HCV mileage (as index of 100)	2007 – 91 2008 and 2009 – 67 2010 – 71 2011 – 55

Rank locations: High Street Station; Lower High Street; New Street/George Street; High Street (nights); Rickmansworth Road (nights); Albert Road South; Clarendon Road; Watford Junction station (private); Harebreaks Car Park

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCES

Current number of licensed PHVs	116
Current pending PHV applications	1
Approx average age of PHVs	7.3 years
Oldest PHV	21 years old
Number of PHVs more than 10 years old	10
Number of PHVs more than 15 years old	5
Majority of vehicles are between 5 and 9 years old	
Most popular PHV make/models	Mercedes (33) of which 22 are Mercedes E220 Ford (22) of which 17 are Mondeos Vauxhall (17) of which 6 are Vectras and 6 are Zafiras
Number of PHV firms:	11 (of which 7 believed to be actively trading)

DRIVERS

Current number of licensed drivers	470
Current pending driver applications	29 (of which 18 are PHDL-only)
Average age of drivers	45 years (oldest 70; youngest 26)
Number of male/female drivers	464 male/6 female (1 HCV & 5 PHV)

FEES & CHARGES FROM 1 APRIL 2012

Three year driver licence fee	£335
Annual driver licence fee	£117
Annual vehicle licence fee	£284
CRB checks	£42
DSA fee	£79 - £112
Knowledge Test (for new applicants)	£35 each attempt

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

- If you wish to hire this taxi by time, you should agree the charge with the driver before you start your journey
- Otherwise, if your whole journey is within the Borough of Watford, the fare for distance and time will be clocked on the taximeter at the rates shown below
- If part of your journey is outside of the Borough, the driver can legally charge more than the meter fare **providing you agree before you start**, or he may refuse the hiring **BUT**
- **Watford taxi-drivers will usually take you anywhere for just the metered fare**

MAXIMUM CHARGES AUTHORISED BY WATFORD COUNCIL FOR JOURNEYS INSIDE THE BOROUGH FROM 15 FEBRUARY 2010 (and usually applied to journeys outside the Borough)

Tariff 1

*For any hiring during Monday to Sunday, between 6 am and 11 pm
(except Public Holidays):*

£2.20	Minimum fare for 274 metres (299.6 yards approx.) or 69 seconds (whichever is reached first), and then
20 p	for 146 metres (159.6 yards approx.) or 35 seconds until the fare is £14 and then
20 p	for each 105 metres (114.82 yards approx.) or 24 seconds.

Tariff 2

For any hiring between 11 pm and 6 am or during Public Holidays:

£2.20	Minimum fare for 183 metres (200 yards approx.) or 45 seconds, and then
20 p	for 91 metres (99.5 yards approx.) or 23 seconds, until the fare is £20.20 and then
20 p	for each 112 metres (122.48 yards approx.) or 24 seconds.

Tariff 3 – For 6 passengers and over

*For any hiring during Monday to Sunday, between 6 am and 11 pm
(except Public Holidays):*

£3.30	Minimum fare for 274 metres (299.6 yards approx.) or 69 seconds (whichever is reached first), and then
30 p	for 146 metres (159.6 yards approx.) or 35 seconds until the fare is £14 and then
30 p	for each 112 metres (122.48 yards approx.) or 24 seconds.

Tariff 4 – For 6 passengers and over

For any hiring between 11 pm and 6 am or during Public Holidays:

£3.30	Minimum fare for 183 metres (200 yards approx.) or 45 seconds, and then
30 p	for 91 metres (99.5 yards approx.) or 23 seconds, until the fare is £20.20 and then
30 p	for each 112 metres (122.48 yards approx.) or 24 seconds.

**Drivers will charge double the fare shown on the meter on: Christmas Eve and
New Year's Eve (after 11 pm); and on Christmas Day and New Year's Day
THE DRIVER MAY CHARGE A SOILING FEE OF £30 FOR A TAXI THAT REQUIRES
A CLEANING SERVICE**

COMPLAINTS AGAINST DRIVERS

In period from 01 April 2011 to 14 March 2012 we received 144 complaints regarding licensed vehicles which are shown in column 1.

Column 2 show how many occasions there was No Further Action (NFA) in the cases. This may have been due to a number of reasons – failure to provide a statement, no trace or further response from customer, or no case to answer.

	Column 1	Column 2
Littering	2	1
Rudeness	13	0
Failure to carry	15	7
Over-charging	30	11
Poor driving	18	2
Assaults	4	1
Use of mobile phone	1	0
Cleanliness	1	1
Other (including vehicle defects, failure to display plate, lost property)	9	2
Smoking in vehicle	2	1
Parking	49	12

Some complaints have detailed multiple offences, for example a driver being rude and then also smoking in his vehicle. In these case only 1 count has been added to the overall totals despite there being more than one offence.

DVLA Endorsements, Disqualification and Revocation

Endorsements - how long on your licence?

Endorsements must remain on a licence for 11 years from date of conviction if the offence is :-

- drinking/drugs and driving (shown on the licence as DR10, DR20, DR30 and DR80).
- causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink/drugs (shown on the licence as CD40, CD50 and CD60).
- causing death by careless driving, then failing to provide a specimen for analysis (shown on the licence as CD70).

OR 4 years from date of conviction if the offence is as listed below :-

- a. reckless/dangerous driving (shown on the licence as DD40, DD60 and DD80),
- b. offences resulting in disqualification.
- c. disqualified from holding a full licence until a driving test has been passed.

OR 4 years from the date of offence in all other cases .

At the appropriate time you can apply to remove your endorsement(s) from your licence.

Code		Penalty Points
Accident Offences		
AC10	Failing to stop after an accident	5-10
AC20	Failing to give particulars or to report an accident within 24 hours	5-10
AC30	Undefined accident offences	4-9
Disqualified Driver		
BA10	Driving whilst disqualified by order of court	6
BA30	Attempting to drive while disqualified by order of court	6
Careless Driving		
CD10	Driving without due care and attention	3-9
CD20	Driving without reasonable consideration for other road users	3-9
CD30	Driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other road users	3-9
CD40	Causing death through careless driving when unfit through drink	3-11
CD50	Causing death by careless driving when unfit through drugs	3-11
CD60	Causing death by careless driving with alcohol level above the limit	3-11
CD70	Causing death by careless driving then failing to supply a specimen for analysis	3-11
Construction & Use Offences		
CU10	Using a vehicle with defective brakes	3
CU20	Causing or likely to cause danger by reason of use of unsuitable vehicle or using a vehicle with parts or accessories (excluding brakes, steering or tyres) in a dangerous condition	3
CU30	Using a vehicle with defective tyre(s)	3

Code		Penalty Points
CU40	Using a vehicle with defective steering	3
CU50	Causing or likely to cause danger by reason of load or passengers	3
CU80	Using a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle	3
Reckless/Dangerous Driving		
DD40	Dangerous Driving	3-11
DD60	Manslaughter or culpable homicide while driving a vehicle.....	3-11
DD80	Causing death by dangerous driving	3-11
Drink or Drugs		
DR10	Driving or attempting to drive with alcohol level above limit	3-11
DR20	Driving or attempting to drive while unfit through drink	3-11
DR30	Driving or attempting to drive then failing to supply a specimen for analysis	3-11
DR40	In charge of a vehicle while alcohol level above limit	10
DR50	In charge of a vehicle while unfit through drink	10
DR60	Failure to provide a specimen for analysis in circumstances other than driving or attempting to drive	10
DR70	Failing to provide specimen for breath test	4
DR80	Driving or attempting to drive when unfit through drugs	3-11
DR90	In charge of a vehicle when unfit through drugs	10
Insurance Offences		
IN10	Using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks	6-8
Licence Offences		
LC20	Driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence	3-6
LC30	Driving after making a false declaration about fitness when applying for a licence	3-6
LC40	Driving a vehicle having failed to notify a disability	3-6
LC50	Driving after a licence has been revoked or refused on medical grounds.....	3-6
Miscellaneous Offences		
MS10	Leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position	3
MS20	Unlawful pillion riding	3
MS30	Play street offences	2
MS40	Driving with uncorrected defective eyesight or refusing to submit to a test	3
MS50	Motor racing on the highway	3-11
MS60	Offences not covered by other codes	As Appropriate
MS70	Driving with uncorrected defective eyesight	3
MS80	Refusing to submit to an eyesight test	3

Code		Penalty Points
MS90	Failure to give information as to identity of driver etc	3
Motorway Offences		
MW10	Contravention of Special Roads Regulations (excluding speed limits)	3
Pedestrian Crossings		
PC10	Undefined Contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations.....	3
PC20	Contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations with moving vehicle.....	3
PC30	Contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations with stationary vehicle.....	3
Speed Limits		
SP10	Exceeding goods vehicle speed limits.....	3-6
SP20	Exceeding speed limit for type of vehicle (excluding goods or passenger vehicles).....	3-6
SP30	Exceeding statutory speed limit on a public road.....	3-6
SP40	Exceeding passenger vehicle speed limit.....	3-6
SP50	Exceeding speed limit on a motorway.....	3-6
SP60	Undefined speed limit offence.....	3-6
Traffic Direction and Signs		
TS10	Failing to comply with traffic light signals	3
TS20	Failing to comply with double white lines	3
TS30	Failing to comply with "Stop" sign	3
TS40	Failing to comply with direction of a constable/warden	3
TS50	Failing to comply with traffic sign (excluding - stop -signs, traffic lights or double white lines)	3
TS60	Failing to comply with a school crossing patrol sign	3
TS70	Undefined failure to comply with a traffic direction sign	3
Special Code		
TT99	To signify a disqualification under totting-up procedure. If the total of penalty points reaches 12 or more within 3 years, the driver is liable to be disqualified	
Theft or Unauthorised Taking		
UT50	Aggravated taking of a vehicle	3-11
Aiding, Abetting, Counseling or Procuring		
Offences as coded, but with the end 0 changed to 2		

Code	Penalty Points
Causing or permitting	
Offences as coded, but with the end 0 changed to 4	
Inciting	
Offences as coded, but with the end 0 changed to 6	
Period of time	
Periods of time are signified as follows: D=Days, M=Months, Y=Years	
Endorsements remain on a counterpart licence for - 11 years from date of conviction for offences relating to drink/drugs and driving, causing death by careless driving whilst under the influence of drink/drugs and causing death by careless driving then failing to provide a specimen for analysis	
11 years from date of conviction for reckless/dangerous driving and offences resulting in disqualification	
4 years from the date of offence in all other cases	

EXAMPLES OF HOW OTHER COUNCILS USE THE DSA TEST

- We require any driver who gets 6 points in 1 year or 9 points over three years to take the enhanced test. If they fail to do it within 3 months [quite long waiting lists here] they are referred to committee with a recommendation to revoke the licence as not satisfied still fit and proper. Our driving standards have risen significantly and no one has ever yet failed to take the test in the prescribed time .
- We require the DSA test for new applicants and it is available for the Committee to use as a recommendation for a retake for drivers who have reached 9 points. or who have been deemed to have driven dangerously or irresponsibility.
- We have just very recently introduced the requirement for a DSA test. New applicants must take it before they can start the application process. Our Committee also wanted all existing drivers to take the test and have given them until 31 January 2015 to do so. (Incidentally we introduced KT's at the same time and existing drivers have a year to sit it and pass it. As you can imagine it's all gone down terribly well with the trade ::))
- Similar circumstances to you, however, a wider definition than 9 or more DVLA points (as follows):

12.3.4 Alternative to Enforcement Action when there are concerns in respect of Driving Standards

Where concerns are raised for the first time in respect of a licensed driver's standard of driving, the driver may be required to pass a DSA test (see section 3.4) within a prescribed period of time. Failure to obtain a DSA test pass within the prescribed period of time will result in the

suspension of the driver until such time as the DSA test pass is obtained. In exceptional circumstances, a driver may be suspended immediately until such time as a DSA test pass is obtained.

- We too require this for new drivers. It is also something our Licensing Sub Committee may impose on existing drivers, and have done so in the past for drivers referred to them for matters involving poor driving standards.
- We use the DSA test for new applicants, however, if we had complaints about a licence holders driving ability (whether or not it resulted in being given points on their DVLA licence) we might ask the driver to retake the DSA test.
- We also use the DSA test for new applicants but not, generally, for existing drivers. Our policy does have a requirement for existing drivers as follows:

Existing drivers of hackney carriage or private hire vehicles will not be required to undertake the DSA test as a matter of course, however, those licensed drivers who:

- attract a complaint about their driving
- are involved in a blameworthy road traffic collision
- commit an offence or offences for which they receive a fixed penalty notice fine and/or points
 - commit an offence or offences for which they appear at court and receive points and/or a fine
 - for any other reasonable cause

may be required to undertake the DSA test to assure the council that they remain a 'fit and proper' person to hold a licence.