

**Licensing Team
Southampton and Eastleigh Licensing Partnership**



Southampton City Council
Civic Centre,
Southampton

Please address all correspondence to:
**Licensing – Southampton City Council,
PO Box 1767, Southampton SO18 9LA**

Direct dial: 023 8083 3002
Our ref:

E-mail: licensing@southampton.gov.uk
Please ask for: Mr. Bates

Name

27th November 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

Consultation on changes to policy affecting the hackney and private hire trades.

There are two different policies changes we wish to consult upon.

- Guidance on determining suitability to hold hackney and private hire licences.
- The requirement for drivers to have completed and passed an approved safeguarding training package.

Southampton City Council is reviewing its policy on the application of the fit and proper person test in relation to the taxi and private hire trade. This includes drivers, proprietors and operators. Since the adoption of the current policy the Institute of Licensing has issued national guidance and the proposal is to adopt this national guidance as policy. The council now wishes to consult on this guidance with a view to submitting a report to the Licensing Committee after the consultation period to adopt the guidance in place of the current policy.

A copy of the Institute of Licensing's guidance can be found at:

www.southampton.gov.uk/taxinotices

It has been identified nationally that the hackney carriage and private hire drivers are in an ideal position to identify safeguarding incidents where an individual may be at risk and that all drivers should be trained to identify these incidents and on what action they can take to safeguard the vulnerable members of society. As such Southampton City Council now wishes to consult on adopting an addition to the policy for all drivers requiring them to have undertaken approved training either prior to first application or on renewal of the driver licence after 1st January 2020. This means drivers will need to refresh the training every three years. It is anticipated there will be funding to pay for existing drivers to undertake this training package as long as it is completed within one year of the start of the implementation, after this the cost is estimated to be £18 that applicants will need to pay the provider. This will however have to be submitted through the procurement process.

The new hackney carriage and private hire driver's policies will include the following at 1.10:-

All applicants for hackney carriage/private hire drivers licences will have successfully completed safeguarding training approved by Southampton City Council within the previous three years.

You are invited to respond to these consultations by either letter addressed to:

The Licensing Team,
Civic Centre,
Southampton SO14 7LY

or by e-mail to: **licensing.policy@southampton.gov.uk**

Please title the responses with either “SCC Fit or Proper Consultation” or “SCC Safeguarding training” and please provide separate responses if responding to both rather than a combined response.

The consultation will end on 18th February 2019.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Bates', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Bates
Licensing Manager