



Driving and Parking

Taxi Compliance Information Sheet 6

Who can drive a Private Hire Vehicle or Hackney Carriage ? : A licensed vehicle can only be driven by a licensed driver. The licences have to be issued by the same Council. Even when used for social, domestic and pleasure use (and regardless of how it is insured), it can **only** be driven by a licensed driver.

- s46 Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976
- s47 & 60 Town Police Clauses Act 1847

Can I use a Rank If I am a Hackney Carriage (HC)? Yes, but some of them only operate at certain times. Check the signage. If there are any defects with the signage or markings please let me know so I can arrange with the Council for it to be fixed. If signage isn't to standard then the rank isn't enforceable. Apart from the usual rank etiquette, there are specific offences which can be committed :

- Leaving a HC unattended (s 62 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)
- HC obstructing other HC's (s64 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

Can I use a Rank if I am a Private Hire Vehicle (PHV)? At some ranks you can drop a customer off or **immediately** pick up a pre booked customer who is there and ready to get in. Bristol City Council have the view that up to 2 minutes to allow the customer to get out/get in is acceptable. Some Operators give their customers up to 5 minutes to get the vehicle, however you would not be able to wait for that long on a rank, the customer should be there at the rank waiting and ready to get in.

- Traffic Regulation Order for each rank, S5 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Some ranks have special rules, and stopping by PHV's is not permitted at any time. They are Horsefair (outside M&S), Penn St, Old Market, Temple Meads, Colston Ave, Whitson St (bus station), Lower Maudlin St (St James Park), Union St, Prince St, Queens Ave, Whiteladies Rd (outside Cinema and outside 153/155), Cabstand,

- Bristol City Council Bye-laws 1986

Bristol City Council Private Hire Drivers shall not park at or within 20 metres of any Hackney Carriage rank ... *[they]* may stop near a Hackney Carriage rank only for the purpose of setting down a passenger –

- Private Hire Driver Condition 15

Using bus stops : Hackney Carriages can stop on bus stops “only so long as may be reasonably necessary for a passenger to board or alight and to load or unload any luggage of the passenger”

- TSRGD 2016

Private Hire Vehicles may not use bus stops at any time.

Using bus lanes : Most bus lanes in Bristol can be used by HC's or PHV's licensed by any local authority. They will be marked as "TAXI" (except Colston Avenue into the new "super rank", which is HC only). If the signs don't say "TAXI" don't use them. Be aware that some Councils restrict the use of their bus lanes for local taxis only so don't assume you can use bus lanes wherever you go in England and Wales.

Bristol Airport : There is a dedicated waiting area for you with smoking and toilet facilities. You can park there for up to 1 hour free of charge, and there is a shuttle bus that services the location (CoVid update – not all facilities/shuttle may be available). The What 3 Words location is fenced.winner.panoramic

Enforcement : Bristol City Council have the primary responsibility for enforcing the parking restrictions on ranks and use of bus lanes. For obstruction offences the police could also take action. If you see a problem with parking on a rank, call Parking Services on 0117 903 8070. Complaints about private hire vehicles parked on ranks should be sent to taxi.complaints@bristol.gov.uk for Bristol vehicles and licensing@southglos.gov.uk for South Glos vehicles.

Giving way to emergency vehicles : It's always appreciated when you let police, ambulance or fire service vehicles through. However, you don't have an exemption to go through red lights, or break other rules of the road – unless you are specifically directed to do so by a police officer. We are trained to stop and turn off the sirens at a blocked junction and wait until it becomes clear.

The information about parking applies to the Bristol City Council area unless otherwise stated. Different Councils have different rules.

Further Information : If you need further information about Taxi Ranks you should contact the local licencing authority by email.

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This is one of a series of information sheets produced for the benefit of Driver, Vehicle and Operator licence holders by Police Constable 4645 Patrick QUINTON, Taxi Compliance Officer, The Bridewell Police Station, Bristol, BS1 2AA

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To join the "Taxi Cop" WhatsApp group, and get information about PC Quinton's work, news updates and licensing/law updates, send a message to 07469 400832. Your details will not be visible to any other members of the group and your privacy is protected.

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