



# **HC's undertaking Private Hire work**

## **Taxi Compliance Officer Information Sheet 10**

In our area, a number of Hackney Carriage (HC) drivers also take on Private Hire (PH) work. The rules can be a bit tricky, so this information sheet will help answer some of the questions I'm often asked.

### **Can a HC driver do PH work ?**

Yes, although not all Operators will use HC's. You can work for any Operator in any area, although some Councils insist that the majority of the work must be within their own area ("predominately working")

### **Which meter do I use ?**

If you are a HC driver working within your own Licensing Area you **MUST** use your "council meter". However, you can charge less than is shown on the "council meter" at the end of the journey but you **MUST NOT** charge more. If your journey begins or ends outside your Licensing area you can charge according to your Operator meter/quote as the customer will have accepted that rate on booking

- Section 66(1) Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976.

Example 1 – Private hire journey from Temple Meads to Park Street. Turn on the "council meter" and also your "Operator meter". At the end of the journey, the "council meter" shows £5.60 but your "operator meter" says £4.20. You should charge £4.20

Example 2 – Private hire journey from Bristol Parkway to the MOD. Turn on the "council meter" and also your "Operator meter". At the end of the journey, the "council meter" shows £6.60 but your "operator meter" says £7.80. You should charge £6.60

Example 3 – Private hire journey from Park Street, Bristol to Kingswood High Street. You don't have to turn on the meter, but it's a good idea to have it on in case the planned journey changes. Turn on the "operator meter". At the end of the journey the "operator meter" says £12.90. Regardless of what the "council meter" says, you should charge £12.90 unless the journey finishes unexpectedly within Bristol City Council boundary in which case the "council meter" cost should be charged.

## **What if it's a contracted job and I don't know how much is charged ?**

It is jointly the responsibility of you and your Operator to share details of the meter charge/contract value to ensure the customer is not charged more than is shown on the meter at the end of the journey. This includes any contract work including schools and executive/company work.

## **What if I see a Hackney Carriage from another Licensing Area in my area ?**

If it is regularly in your area you could consider contacting the Licensing Authority it is licensed with, to let them know. You can also let me know so I can do some checks about the use of the vehicle.

## **If I'm doing Private Hire work, what else do I need to know ?**

If you are undertaking private hire work, you will only be exempt from wearing a seatbelt if you have a customer on board. Some HC drivers have been given seatbelt tickets when working outside their Licensing Area as they can no longer be plying for hire when not in their Licensing Area. Also, be aware that bus lanes in some areas are only for local Hackney Carriages.

Generally, Licence Conditions mean that you must always have your Taxi roof sign fitted. However, if you are working on Private Hire work outside of your Licensing Area, it is unlikely that the police or council will object if you removed the taxi roof sign to avoid confusion for the public and concern from local Hackney Carriage drivers, but please check with your Licensing Authority first.

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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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