

It has come to our attention that there has been some confusion over the following Licence condition:

1.9 Obscure or dark tinted windows will not be permitted so as to observe driver and passengers being carried

To clarify matters we have set a limit to which windows can be tinted. The windows of a vehicle to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire will be required to let in at least 60% of light through.

We cannot grant Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licences until all the checks have been completed and all requirements and conditions are met.

As of the 1st April 2017 all new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles and all renewals of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles will need to comply with the above criteria to be licensed.

Our main concern as a Local Authority is the safety of the public. Drivers of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles are often entrusted with the care of vulnerable persons; this includes children, elderly and young people.

When we reviewed our Taxi Drivers Convictions Policy in 2016 we included a specific reference to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in light of recent developments in other parts of the country. One point of concern is that vehicles that have tinted windows prevent clear and easy observation of the passengers. It is especially important to have conditions such as the one above, in order to be able to view passengers in light of concerns about CSE. This is a matter that has been highlighted by the Council's Community Protection Team; the Police and Child Protection Services.

We hope you will agree that by complying with the above condition taxi drivers are assisting other services to tackle CSE.