

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF LICENSED VEHICLES THAT CAN BE HIRED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC?

Hackney Carriages (Taxis)

Licensed Hackney Carriages:

- Taxis or Hackney Carriage Vehicles can be hired immediately - you can get one at a rank or hail one in the street - or by pre-booking.
- Must display a yellow licence plate on the rear of the vehicle which gives the licence and registration numbers, type of vehicle and licence expiry date.
- A small repeater plate is displayed inside the vehicle, either on the partition or on the vehicle windscreen.
- The majority of Hackney Carriage vehicles are white and have reflective yellow stripes down the sides.
- Can stand on taxi ranks
- Can be hailed in the street
- Can be booked by telephone
- Must have a meter which has a maximum fare set by the Council
- Must display a fare card
- Are subject to vehicle inspections, in addition to the MOT test
- Must have current vehicle insurance for taxi work
- Are driven by Council licensed drivers

Private Hire Vehicles

Licensed Private Hire Vehicles

- Private hire vehicles (PHVs, also called minicabs) are licensed only to collect passengers who have pre-booked with a licensed operator.
- Must display a green licence plate on the rear of the vehicle which gives the licence and registration numbers, type of vehicle and licence expiry date.
- Are not subject to fare scales set by the Council although many of the Private Hire vehicles in St Albans have meters set at the same scale. It is always advisable to agree your fare, or how the fare will be determined at the point of booking.
- Are subject to vehicle inspections, in addition to the MOT test
- Must have current vehicle insurance for private work
- Are driven by Council licensed drivers

Both vehicles and their drivers must be licensed to ensure they meet legal requirements. In the case of PHVs, the operator (who arranges the hirings) must also be licensed. Both taxis and PHVs have a maximum of eight passenger seats.

DRIVERS

- All drivers have been vetted (see below) by the Council and must wear (Display) an identity badge.
- A yellow badge is issued to Hackney Carriage drivers.
- A green badge is issued to Private Hire drivers

Checks are undertaken by the Local Authority to ensure that the drivers of both types of vehicles are fit and proper to do so, this includes medical checks, driving licence checks, local area knowledge tests and criminal record checks.

The badge will contain the following information:

- Council's logo
- Driver's photograph
- Driver's number
- Driver's name

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!!!!

Why should you know the difference?

'If you undertake a journey in a Private Hire Vehicle that has not been pre-booked it is illegal and it invalidates the drivers insurance for that journey'

How can I tell the difference?

'You can tell by looking at the licence plate, Yellow for Hackney Carriage and Green for Private Hire'

'Hackney carriage vehicles display the word Taxi on a sign on the roof of the vehicle' (Some signs are integrated into the vehicle roof)

COMPLAINTS

In case of complaints:

- Make a note of either the driver's badge number or make a note of the vehicle plate number
- Note time and date
- Note the location of the incident
- Remember as much detail as you can about the vehicle type, colour and any distinguishing features

Then contact the Licensing Team on 01727 296125 or licensing@stalbans.gov.uk

IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION THEN PLEASE VISIT www.stalbans.gov.uk

HACKNEY CARRIAGE RULES YOU SHOULD KNOW!!

- If a Hackney Carriage Vehicle is on a Taxi Rank they are available for hire.... They are duty bound to take your fare and cannot refuse to carry you!!!
- All Hackney Carriage vehicles must use the meter on all journeys, even if you have arranged a price with the driver, the meter must be set and legally you are only obliged to pay the fare reflected on the meter.
ALWAYS ASK THEY DRIVER TO SET THE METER

BE TAXI WISE – BE SAFE

REMEMBER...

- Never get into a vehicle that does not display an appropriate plate at the rear. It is not insured and may not be licensed!
- Ensure that the driver is displaying a St Albans approved badge.
- Make a note of the licence number of any vehicle you hire