

Examples of Policies and Conditions approved by other Licensing Authorities

There are more than 300 district, borough and unitary authorities in the UK. An internet search of taxi and private hire policies and conditions was conducted by the Licensing team between 1 and 22 December 2017. Approximately 100 searches were made which reveal that many licensing authorities make use of the powers granted under the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976 to impose conditions relating to the licensing of vehicles with tinted windows. The findings are copied below:

Ashford: Tinted Glass. Vehicles are manufactured and produced with window glass in various tints or film coatings from clear to jet-black, the latter making it impossible to view into the passenger compartment. The removal of film coating from windows is far less expensive than the changing of glass. These heavily tinted windows may be of concern to women passengers travelling alone, and parents of children travelling unaccompanied. Many of the vehicles supplied with tinted glass are acceptable with reference to the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, however in the interests of safety and reassurance of passengers, tinted glass or mirrored glass that restricts all view into the passenger compartment will not be accepted on licensed vehicles.

Aylesbury Vale District Council: Tinted windows. For safety reasons it should be possible to observe the driver and passengers being carried. Many vehicles are used for the carriage of children, and vulnerable persons, and for this reason tinted windows which prevent clear vision into the vehicle are not permitted except where otherwise agreed with the licensing authority

Basildon: Tinted Windows. All windows fitted to Private Hire vehicles must comply with the minimum requirements as follows:

Front windows (windscreen and front side windows) to transmit 75% of light through the front windscreen. To transmit 70% of light through the front driver/passenger side windows. Any subsequent replacement windows shall conform to the above requirements. No tinted films or other adhesive materials will be acceptable on any part of the windows of the vehicle.

Other windows (rear passenger windows/quarter light windows/rear windscreen)

Where there is rear windscreen product advertising, to transmit 70% of light through all other windows.

Any subsequent replacement windows shall conform to the above requirement.

No tinted films or other adhesive materials will be accepted on any part of the windows of the vehicle, except product advertising that has been approved, by the Licensing Authority, for rear window advertising.

Bath and NES DIY window tint film kits are not permissible. Tinted glass windows are permissible provided that they are only those supplied as standard by the original vehicle manufacturer and comply with current vehicle Construction and Use Regulations.

Bedford Borough Council (Compliance check) Check that windscreens and front passenger and driver side windows have a visual light transmission throughout of 75% and 70% or higher respectively. Check that all windows other than those above have a visual light transmission reading throughout of 32% or higher.

Blaby The vehicle shall comply with the Construction and Use Regulations 1986 (as Amended) with respect to the fitting of tinted, opaque, darkened or privacy glass windows.

Birmingham Only tinted and anti-glare windows fitted by the vehicles manufacturer are acceptable.

Bolsover: Tinted windows. The windows or windscreen of any vehicle must allow at least 70% of light to pass through it, unless the following criteria can be met:

- the vehicle is licensed only for private hire purposes;
- the vehicle is a stretched limousine or prestige type vehicle (see separate additional conditions for limousines at Appendix B)
- the vehicle will not carry children/young persons aged under 18 unless accompanied by an adult; and
- the operator must, unless such a vehicle has been specifically requested, inform a hirer that such a vehicle will be supplied.

Bristol The standard has been varied in that the light transmitted through the windscreen must be at least 75%. The front side windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them. The remaining windows must allow at least 65% of light to be transmitted through them.

Brighton DARKENED/TINTED WINDOWS except light tints and sun strips are not normally acceptable in the interest of public safety. The tint should not normally exceed a light restriction of 25% for windscreens and 30% for all other windows. (*Expressed as the amount of light which is prevented from entering the vehicle*)

Bromsgrove: Any vehicle to be licensed for the first time, with the exception of special event vehicles, is NOT permitted to have a tint where they conceal the identity of the passenger inside.

<http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/media/2812017/BDC-HC-and-PH-Handbook-April-2016-.pdf>

Calderdale Tinted windows will be permitted on vehicles, however, the front windscreen must be 75% clear, and 45% clear on other passenger compartment

windows. A tolerance of + or – 3% will be allowed on passenger compartment windows, and this will be absolute. This restriction will not apply to the rear window and windows on any luggage compartment areas where no passengers are seated, and these windows may be tinted, however there must be a clear unobscured view through the rear view mirror. Vehicles first licensed with the Council from 1 April 2016 must comply with this specification.

Canterbury: Tinted windows. No licensed vehicle shall normally have privacy glass unless the tinted glass is included in the vehicle's standard manufacturing specification or the vehicle is not used for general public hire but is used for airport collection services or for private business hire. See also Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended).

Carlisle City Council: Window glass tinted no darker than 32% +/- 2%

Chiltern District Council: Glazing All vehicles will be tested with a light meter. Any vehicle with a reading lower than the following will not be licensed. Front Windscreen 75%, Front Side Windows 70%, All other Windows 30%. The lower the number the darker the tint

Crawley Borough Council: Tinted Windows. A proprietor must not affix, or allow to be affixed, window tinting to the licensed vehicle without first applying for and obtaining permission from the council to do so.

Dover: Vehicle windows shall have visual transmission of light of not less than 75% in respect of windscreens and not less than 70% in respect of all other windows and rear windscreen. No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional film to darken or tint the glass on any part of the vehicle.

Dudley July 2016 The Taxi Committee resolved to keep restrictions on tinted glass; That the Council should continue with its long standing policy of allowing:-

- 75% of light passing through the front windscreen;
- 70% of light passing through both front side facing windows;
- 40% of light passing through all other side facing windows.

Cardiff Windscreen & Windows. To be in a good clean condition and free from damage. The windscreen must allow at least 75% of light to pass through with all other windows allowing 70% of light to pass through.

Central Bedfordshire Tinted windows may be permitted providing they are fitted during the manufacture of the vehicle and meet all legal requirements.

Cheshire East Heavily tinted glazing and tinted films applied to vehicle windows are not permitted. The visual transmission of light shall be not less than 75% through the windscreen and not less than 70% through all other windows.

Cornwall All vehicle windows shall be transparent. Any tint, including manufacturer's tint, which, in the opinion of the Officer inspecting the vehicle, obstructs visibility into the private hire vehicle will not be permitted.

Crawley A proprietor must not affix, or allow to be affixed, window tinting to the licensed vehicle without first applying for and obtaining permission from the council to do so.

Doncaster Glass allowing a minimum of 75% light ingress on front windscreens and not less than 70% light ingress on all side and rear passenger windows, which does not inhibit the ability to see passengers or the driver from the outside of the vehicle, is required.

East Ayrshire Tinted windows will be permitted on vehicles, however, the front windscreen must be 75% clear, and 45% clear on other passenger compartment windows. A tolerance of + or – 3% will be allowed on passenger compartment windows, and this will be absolute. This restriction will not apply to the rear window and windows on any luggage compartment areas where no passengers are seated, and these windows may be tinted, however there must be a clear unobscured view through the rear view mirror. Vehicles first licensed with the Council from 1 April 2016 must comply with this specification.

East Northamptonshire: All glazing must at all times comply with The Road vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 regulation 32 with regards to the level of tint. The front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and the front side windows must let at least 70% of light through. Tinted films applied to the vehicle windows are not permitted.

Epping The Authority has a duty of care to ensure that all residents, professional clients and general customers travelling in private hire vehicles are safe and secure at all times and that private hire vehicles are readily recognisable as such. To that end the Council's standard conditions require the display of private hire licence plates and door stickers, and forbid the use of tinted windows.
<http://rds.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/documents/s48322/Hackney%20Carriage%20Private%20Hire%20Licensing%20Policy.pdf> Please note that this policy has now changed and that Epping no longer restrict the use of tinted windows in Private Hire Vehicles.

Forest of Dean Council: Vehicles will not be accepted that have tinted film on the windows. However factory fitted tinted windows are permitted.

Fylde Any window tint must comply with relevant UK legislation.

Gloucester The driver and passenger front side window glass and the front windscreen must be clear. However, tinted windows can be fitted to the side and rear window glass of the vehicle provided that they were fitted at the time of manufacture.

Guildford In addition, the Council's vehicle specification policy (setting the Council's requirements over and above the legal limits) on tinted windows states:

- The windows of any vehicle shall not have been treated so that anything other than the manufacturer's original fitted windows are in use, and
- The windows of any vehicle shall not have been treated with any tint other than that originally fitted to the vehicle, i.e. tinting film. All windows let enough

light through for a person 20 meters away to be able to see the number of passengers in the vehicle in daylight.

The policy is therefore that tinting, above the original fitted windows, is not permitted and vehicles will therefore likely fail the vehicle test.

Halton Privacy glass shall be permitted subject to the following rules:

- The permitted degree of tinting of glass in front of the 'B – Pillar' shall be in accordance with national standards
- The permitted degree of tinting of glass behind the vehicles 'B – Pillar' shall not exceed the vehicle manufacturer's specification for the vehicle in question.

Harrogate: The vehicle can have tinted glass behind the "B" pillar, providing it is a factory fitted tint and not a retro fit. You must not add tints to a vehicle once it is licensed.

Hastings: No vehicle may have tinted windscreens/windows

Herefordshire All windows must be clear of any obstructions or damage, which will in any way impede the view of the driver. No curtains must be placed over the windows and any blinds if installed must not be of a type, which will restrict all round vision. All windows must be capable of being operated in a satisfactory manner. All windows must be fitted with glass, which complies with the British Standard.

Horsham: Dark Tinted Windows. Vehicles to comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 and have windscreens which allow at least 75% of light to pass through and all other windows must allow at least 70% of light to pass through. Vehicles should not be fitted with non-manufacturers tint such as sticky plastic film or aerosol spray applied to the surfaces of the windscreen, driver's or passenger front windows.

Kings Lynn and West Norfolk: No glass, with the exception of a tinted sun-strip along the top of the windscreen, shall be tinted to such an extent as to obscure the view of the inside of the vehicle under normal workshop lighting conditions from a distance of 4 metres. Stretch limousines are exempt from Condition 3.60 regarding tinted windows fitted to the side and rear window glass of the vehicle. The driver and passenger front side window glass and the front windscreen (cockpit area) must meet legal requirements.

Kirklees All windows fitted to Kirklees Private Hire Vehicles MUST comply with the minimum legal requirements; to transmit 75% of light to the front windscreen and 21% light to all other vehicle windows. Further, all vehicles must meet required standards at annual testing. No tinted film is accepted on current licensed vehicles or new applications (with effect from January 2007)

Leeds. Leeds City Council maintains a high level of safety for the travelling public when using taxi and private hire vehicles. To support this, it is considered necessary to ensure that the Police, Council Enforcement Officers and members of the public can always see into a licensed vehicle in outside lighting conditions. This discourages crime from being carried out inside the licensed vehicle and it has also

been established that women, vulnerable people and disability groups feel safer when they can easily see out of, and others can see into, the vehicle.

It is now the current practice for different manufacturers to use glass with varying degrees of tint as standard. However, irrespective of the type of glass fitted by the manufacturer, Leeds City Council will not licence a vehicle unless the glass has a minimum light transmission which enables clear vision both into and from the vehicle at all times.

This means that neither heavily tinted glazing, tinted films applied to the windows or mirror tints are permitted. In accordance with regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 the windscreen shall have a minimum light transmission value of 75% and the near and offside drivers windows 70%. The other windows must also have a minimum light transmission 70%. Additionally all windows should have consistency in style and level of tint.

Lewes District Council: Blacked out windows. Totally blacked out windows in hackney carriages will not be permitted. However, partially darkened windows may be allowed at the discretion of the Licensing Officer.

Maidstone: Tinted windows. From an Officers point of view, tinted glass affects Public Safety and as many vehicles are used for the carriage of children, and vulnerable persons tinted windows which prevent clear vision into the vehicle should not be permitted.

Glass allowing a minimum of 75% light ingress on front windscreens and not less than 70% light ingress on all side and rear passenger windows, which does not inhibit the ability to see passengers or the driver from the outside of the vehicle, is required. The Licensing Office use a device that can measure the light transmission through any type of glass in minutes, and provide a read out of the suitability of proposed vehicles for use as a licensed private hire vehicles in the district.

Any stretch limousines and high-class executive vehicles licensed for private hire to carry out executive work only, and not operated on a taxi or private hire circuit, **will be exempt from these conditions**, provided the tinted glass was fitted as standard by the manufacturer. All vehicles licensed must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & use) Regulations in relation to tinted windows. The vehicle is licensed only for Private Hire purposes. The vehicle is a stretched limousine or prestige type i.e. (Mercedes E Class) vehicle (see separate additional conditions for limousines at Appendix 7); and The vehicle will not be engaged at all in any contract for the carriage of school children or based around the carriage of children, or in the carriage of vulnerable adults;

The Operator must, unless such a vehicle has been specifically requested, inform a hirer that such a vehicle will be supplied. It is suggested that stretch limousines or high-class executive vehicles licensed for private hire for executive work may be exempted from the proposed new licensing condition, provided that the dark tinted windows are fitted as standard by the manufacturer and that the vehicle is used for executive work only, and not operated on a taxi or private hire circuit. These vehicles will, of course, still be required to comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & use) Regulations.

Manchester Vehicles will only be licensed where the following is applicable:
There is a clear view of the passengers **AND** the light transmission meets the following criteria:

- Front windscreen transmission - minimum 75% light
- Front side door glass transmission - minimum 70% light
- Remaining glass (exc. rear window) transmission - minimum 70% light

These transmissions can be measured using Taxi Licensing's 'tint meter' when presented for testing for their initial vehicle application. Manchester has an exceptions procedure for non-standard private hire vehicles.

Medway Windscreen and front door glass shall comply with legal requirements. Medway Council will only grant licenses for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles that have a maximum tint of 60% (allowing 40% of light to be transmitted through on all other glazed areas sunroofs where no level is set.

Middlesbrough

Window Tints – This condition will be applied to vehicles licensed after 15 July 2010. No vehicle shall have tinted windows beyond the following levels:
Light transmissible through windscreen should be no less than 75%
Light transmissible through any other window should be no less than 70%
When testing vehicles, the Council testing centre will allow up to a 5% error margin. This comfortably takes into account an error margin of 1-3% recommended by the testing instrument's manufacturer.

Milton Keynes All windows in the rear of a vehicle must have a 70% visual light transmission ratio. The Council test the tints of windows and will fail a vehicle if they do not meet this requirement. Some new vehicles come with manufactured window tints – These are still NOT acceptable.

Newport The front windscreen and front windows must have a visible light transmission (VLT) of not less than 75% and all other windows must not be tinted to the extent that the passengers cannot be seen.

North Hertfordshire District Council: The front windscreen, front driver's side window and front passenger's side window must be clear glass. Exemption from this requirement will be given for original manufacturer's specification 'light tint' glass. The rear windscreens of any vehicle shall not have been treated so that less than 75% of light is transmitted through it, and the rear passenger compartment side windows of any vehicle so that less than 70% of light is transmitted through them unless the following criteria can be met:

- (i) The vehicle is licensed as private hire vehicle only;
- (ii) The vehicle is a stretched limousine vehicle (see separate additional conditions for limousines at Appendix B);
- (iii) The vehicle will not be engaged at any time in any contract for the carriage of school children;

(iv) The Private Hire Operator must, unless such a vehicle has been specifically requested, inform a hirer that such a vehicle will be supplied.

This section does not preclude any requirements provided for in any relevant legislation relating to road traffic vehicles.

North West Leicestershire: The vehicle shall comply with the Construction and Use Regulations 1986 (as amended) with respect to the fitting of tinted, opaque, darkened or privacy glass windows.

Oxford City Council. Windows must be provided at the sides and at the rear of the vehicle. The light transmission of any window in any position must not be less than that currently required of the front windscreen and side windows by The Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986. For the sake of clarity, all windows must allow 70% of light through as tested by a light meter, with the exception that upon the fitting of Audio & Visual Recording Equipment to any Private Hire vehicle licensed from 1st April 2011, there shall be no requirement for the need to replace the standard manufactured rear windows or rear windscreen of the vehicle.

Powys Council: Tinted windows will only be permitted in accordance with the manufacturers or specialist coachbuilder's specification and must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986. No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional film to darken or tint the glass on any part of the vehicle.

Preston The minimum light transmission for glass in front of, and to the side of, the driver is 70%. Vehicles may be manufactured with glass that is darker than this fitted to windows rearward of the driver, especially in estate and people carrier style vehicles. No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional film to darken or tint the glass.

Reigate and Banstead Where fitted, the degree of tint or silvering must comply with Regulation 32(1) of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, which defines the acceptable standard.

Ribble Valley Borough Council: Maintenance of the vehicle; (save with the approval of the Council) have glass in its windows with a minimum of 70% light transmission.

Rochford (November 2017) The front windscreen must allow 75% of light transmission. The driver's window and front passenger window must allow 70% of light transmission. In other windows, only tinted glass supplied as an original fitment at the time of manufacturer of the vehicle will be acceptable and this must allow adequate light transmission to provide a clear view into the vehicle to see any passengers. Any subsequent replacement windows shall conform to the original manufacturer's specification. Any variation on these restrictions will be at the discretion of the Licensing Authority. No tinted films or other adhesive materials will be accepted on any part of the windows of the vehicle without written consent from the Licensing Authority.

Rother The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Handbook states that "all windows should be tint free to the extent that the inside of the vehicle should be clearly visible at all times...the driver and any passengers should be clearly visible when looking into the vehicle from all windows at all times".

Vehicles presented for first licensing will need to comply with this public safety requirement. You may have to replace rear passenger tinted windows even if the glass is factory fitted tinted glass. The rear passenger windows should be no darker than the front side windows (it is a legal requirement that front side windows should allow 70% visual light transmission VLT). We have a Police standard tint meter that can be used to check rear passenger windows. If you are unsure, please contact the licensing team before purchasing a vehicle.

Rotherham Private Hire Vehicles: All glazing must at all times comply with Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 regulation 32 with regards to the level of tint. A minimum light transmission value of 70% shall be maintained in all windows except a windscreen, which shall have a minimum light transmission value of 75%.

Runnymede Borough Council: Tinted windows. The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 as amended specifies the minimum levels of light that must pass through the windscreen and front side windows. For vehicles first used on or after 1 April 1985, the light transmitted through the windscreen must be 75% and 70% through the front side windows. The licensing authority recognises that many manufacturers fit tinted windows as standard original fittings as either 'dark tint' or 'light tint'.

There is a distinct difference between standard tinted windows which meet the legal requirements and what is commonly known as 'privacy glass' which is much darker and lets a minimum of light through as well as making it very difficult to see into the vehicle. To address public safety concerns around the use of 'privacy' glass and to allow as wide a range of vehicles as possible to be used by the trade the following conditions apply to vehicle windows on the rear windscreen / rear side windows:-

(a) All rear windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them.

(b) No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional film to darken or tint the windows on any part of the vehicle.

(c) Front side windows and the front windscreen must meet the requirements of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.

(d) Privacy glass shall only be acceptable where fitted to plate exempt vehicles

In order to avoid unnecessary expense being caused to the trade through this policy. It is proposed that any existing licensed vehicles which currently have factory fitted privacy glass be allowed to continue to be licensed on a yearly basis until such time as the vehicle is replaced or changes ownership (by change of ownership this includes the regular use of the vehicle by another driver). This will also allow time for drivers to make other arrangements for those customers who insist on vehicles with privacy glass.

St Albans – clarification paper on tinted windows

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.

https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/Tinted%20windows_tcm15-58093.pdf

St Helens: With the exception of Stretch Limousines no vehicle will be accepted with blacked out windows, as passengers being carried in the vehicle must be visible from the outside. In certain circumstances tinted windows will be acceptable. Please consult the Licensing Unit for further advice.

Sandwell MBC: The vehicle must not have tinted or blacked out windows, which were fitted after manufacture. Tint film must not be applied to any of the windows of the vehicle.

Salford Vehicles fitted with manufacturers tinted windows will only be accepted if the front windscreen allows 75% of light, all other windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them. Any vehicles with windows darker than the above specification and which do not allow the occupants to be clearly visible from the exterior will not be licensed. After market non-manufacturer's tinted window film will not be acceptable.

Sevenoaks Private Hire Vehicles with any tinted window of less than 50% transmission of light must not be used for the carriage of children and young persons who are, or will be, travelling without a parent or independent adult supervision. The only exception to this is that where a child or young person is to be carried as a passenger unaccompanied by an adult then it will be for the proprietor of the vehicle and/or the operator to satisfy themselves that such a journey in a vehicle with tinted windows is with the knowledge and consent of that child or young person's parent or

guardian and the details of such knowledge and consent, whether verbal or written, will form part of the Operator's Records required to be kept by licence condition

Shropshire Tinted windows will only be permitted in accordance with the manufacturers or specialist coachbuilder's specification and must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 as amended.

Solihull If new/existing drivers are licensing a new vehicle for the first time in SMBC all glazing shall comply with the 'Construction and Use Regulation 32' with regard to the level of tints. A minimum light transmission of 70% shall be maintained in all windows except the front windscreen which shall have a minimum light transmission of 75%. Any additional smoked/tinted glass fitted to any of the windows either by the manufacturer or darkened by a tint specialist will not be accepted.

If you are looking to buy a vehicle for taxi/private hire uses ensure that no additional tints have been fitted to the front windows and that all other glass on the vehicle is of same shade/tint. If there is a difference in the shade/tint when comparing the front glass to the back glass then that can only mean that the vehicle has tints/privacy glass and we will not license that vehicle.

South Oxfordshire (draft statement)

The front windscreen, front and rear windows must have a visible light transmission (VLT) of not less than 75 per cent so that the passengers can be seen from the outside of the vehicle. Only vehicle manufacture tints are permitted on the vehicle.

Stroud Vehicles will not be accepted that have tinted film on the windows. However factory fitted tinted windows are permitted.

Slough This policy applies for all licensed private hire and hackney carriage vehicles.

Light transmitted through the windscreen must be at least 75%

All other windows (both front & rear) must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted

Exceptions to limiting the tint on the rear windows can be made providing the following criteria can be met:

the vehicle is used predominantly for contract hire/corporate work where no cash is exchanged (and) the vehicle is a stretched limousine or prestige/executive type (eg Mercedes, BMW, Audi etc)

South Bucks District Council All vehicles will be tested with a light meter. Any vehicle with a reading lower than the following will not be licensed. Front Windscreen 75%, Front Side Windows 70%, All other Windows 30%. The lower the number the darker the tint (identical to Chiltern DC)

South Hams DC: Tinted Windows The minimum light transmission for glass in the front windscreen is 75%, and in windows either side of the driver is 70%, as per national guidelines. Vehicles may be manufactured with glass that has less than 70% light transmission fitted to windows rearward of the driver only. Tinted film is not allowed and where currently licensed vehicles have had a 'tinted film' fitted after being licensed, the film must be removed.

South Kesteven Windows. Vehicle windows shall have visual transmission of light of not less than 70% in respect of windscreens and windows to either side of the driver. No vehicle shall be fitted with any form of additional film to darken or tint the glass on any part of the vehicle.

South Norfolk Tinted glass shall conform to the legal requirements of the current Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations.

Spelthorne All vehicles must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 and in particular the requirements relating to tinted windows, which state that as a minimum: The light transmitted through the windscreen must be at least 75% and the front side windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them.

Newly licensed vehicles will only be considered suitable where all rear side windows allow at least **22%** of light to be transmitted through them. There is no minimum transmission requirement for the rear windscreen.

Stevenage: For safety reasons it should be possible to observe the driver and passengers being carried. Many hackney carriage and private hire vehicles are used for the carriage of children, and vulnerable persons, and for this reason tinted windows which prevent clear vision into the vehicle will not be permitted, save for when the vehicle is fitted with such an option in accordance with the manufacturers standards.

Suffolk and Waverney Tinted Windows Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 specify the minimum levels of light that must pass through the windscreen and front side windows. Motor vehicles first used on or before 1st April 1985: The windscreen and front side windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them. Motor vehicles first used on or after 1st April 1985: The light transmitted through the windscreen must be at least 75%. The front windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them.

Sunderland The glazing of the vehicle must have a light transmittance as detailed below:

The light transmittance of all glass fitted to the vehicle shall not be lower than 75% in the case of the front windscreen or 70% in the case of all remaining glass UNLESS the vehicle is an exempted vehicle, in which case, in relation to all glass other than the front windscreen and two front doors:

- where individual units of glass are replaced, the replacement glass shall not have a light transmittance which is lower than the glass being replaced;
- where all units of glass are replaced on the same occasion, the replacement glass shall have a light transmittance of not less than 70%.

An "exempted vehicle" is a vehicle licensed by the Council as a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle on or before 3 February 2003, in respect of which the proprietor notified the Council in writing prior to 3 March 2003 that glass already fitted to the vehicle other than in the front windscreen and two front doors had a light

transmittance lower than 70%. Note: A tolerance level of minus 4% is allowed in relation to the measured transmittance.

Swale Tinted Windows; The light transmitted through the windscreen must be at least 75%. All other side windows and rear must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through them.

Swindon: Licensed vehicles must allow at least 75% light transmission through the front windscreen and no less than 70% of light transmission through all other windows. Any vehicle which does not meet this condition will not be eligible for licensing as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle.

Tameside Vehicles fitted with Manufacturers tinted windows only will be accepted & the windows must still allow a clear view of the inside of the vehicle to and observer standing outside the vehicle. The authorised officer's opinion in this respect will be final. Any tinted window film applied after purchase is not acceptable.

Thurrock Council: Tinted windows, including factory fitted tinted windows, which have sufficient tint to obscure the inside of the vehicle from being viewed from the outside will not be permitted without the prior approval of the Licensing authority. Those Hackney Carriage proprietors, whose vehicles have such tinted windows on 1 February 2014, may remain licensed until the vehicle is replaced. The only exceptions to that are likely to be considered are for vehicles with a plate exemption or limousines. (please note that this condition is contained within 'private hire vehicle licence conditions')

Torbay DC The Licensing Authority will not issue a licence to a vehicle which has tinted windows that were not in place at the time of manufacture. The manufacture of such windows must be compliant with VOSA regulations.

Trafford The degree of tint permissible is as follows:-
Front windscreen: minimum light transmittance 75%
All remaining vehicle glass: minimum light transmittance 70%

Wealden District The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Handbook states that "all windows should be tint free to the extent that the inside of the vehicle should be clearly visible at all times, the driver and any passengers should be clearly visible when looking into the vehicle from all windows at all times".

Vehicles presented for first licensing will need to comply with this public safety requirement. You may have to replace rear passenger tinted windows even if the glass is factory fitted tinted glass. The rear passenger windows should be no darker than the front side windows (it is a legal requirement that front side windows should allow 70% visual light transmission VLT). We have a Police standard tint meter that can be used to check rear passenger windows. If you are unsure, please contact the licensing team before purchasing a vehicle.

Wellingborough Vehicle manufacturer's standard tinted glass is accepted on licensed vehicles. However privacy glass; tinted or coloured films or other aftermarket modifications to windows are not acceptable.

Winchester: Vehicles with manufactured tinted glass may be licensed with no additional tinting. Applicants/licence holders may request window tinting on vehicles that have clear glass where they can provide exceptional reasons why it is required and must be professionally applied.

Wycombe The front windscreen shall allow a minimum level of 75% light transmittance and the front driver and passenger windows shall allow a minimum level of 70% light transmittance.

Wyre Forest The glass of the driver and passenger's front side window and the front windscreen must be clear. However, tinted windows can be fitted to the side and rear window glass of the vehicle provided that they comply with current legislation.
