

Proposed amendments to the Council's Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy in relation to CCTV (2024)

Barnsley Council has received funding for a pilot scheme via the Transport Innovation Fund to install CCTV in all of our hackney carriage vehicles.

In line with this pilot scheme the Taxi and Private Hire Policy will be amended to update the Council's position in relation to CCTV.

It is proposed that the following sections replace sections 2.108-2.111 of the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy:-

CCTV

It is recognised that the hackney carriage and private hire trades provide a valuable public service, especially late at night, when other forms of public transport are not always available. Security for both drivers and passengers is a high priority.

CCTV cameras can be a valuable deterrent to criminal activity as well as protecting the driver from unjustified complaints.

For the purpose of this policy, CCTV relates to recording inside of the vehicle only.

All hackney carriages licensed by Barnsley MBC must have a CCTV system installed by the provider specified by the Council following the tender exercise*. The CCTV system must be in use whenever the vehicle is in use as a licensed vehicle for the purpose of hire and reward.

Whilst the Council will provide the CCTV system, the ownership will transfer on installation to and will at all times remain the property of the licensed proprietor/owner of the hackney carriage vehicle who will at all times be liable for its use in their vehicle(s). The licensed proprietor/owner of the hackney carriage vehicle will be responsible for the maintenance and security of the CCTV system. The Council will have no liability for the goods or services provided.

The installation of security measures such as a bulk head or screen between driver and passengers, as a means of providing some protection for drivers is acceptable. Where a screen has been fitted the CCTV camera must be fitted to ensure a clear recording. The driver and proprietor of the hackney carriage vehicle shall ensure that the CCTV system is properly maintained and serviced to ensure clear images are recorded. Any deliberate abuse or deliberate attempt to interfere with the legitimate use of the CCTV system will be given due weight and regard when determining whether the driver/proprietor is a fit and proper person to continue holding a licence.

Warning signage must be clearly and prominently displayed inside the vehicle advising passengers that a CCTV system is in operation in the vehicle.

It will be the hackney carriage driver/proprietors' responsibility to comply with all aspects of the law regarding such surveillance equipment. There is information available on the ICO's website - [CCTV and video surveillance | ICO](#) and the CCTV code of practice - [Update to Surveillance Camera Code of Practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**The approved supplier will be confirmed prior to the implementation of this policy and any change to the hackney carriage vehicle conditions.*

It is proposed that the Hackney Carriage Vehicle conditions of licence (Appendix E) will be amended to include the following conditions:-

- In relation to CCTV systems proprietors must have CCTV equipment installed to the specification set by Barnsley MBC and ensure that it is operated in accordance with the Licensing Authority's Policy.
- The vehicle must display a minimum of 3 warning signs clearly and prominently displayed inside the vehicle advising passengers that a CCTV system is in operation in the vehicle. The notices shall be positioned in a prominent (though not obstructive) position where they can be easily read by persons both inside and outside of the vehicle. The proprietor shall ensure that the notices are maintained in a clean and legible condition.
- The proprietor shall ensure that the CCTV system is properly and regularly maintained and serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Written records of all maintenance and servicing shall be made and retained by the proprietor for a minimum of 24 months. Such written records shall be made available on demand by an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.
- The vehicle proprietor shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that any driver of the vehicle is made aware of every condition in relation to the installed CCTV system.