

Special Event Private Hire Vehicles

4.1 Special event private hire vehicles are vehicles that have been modified or converted after manufacture, the most common form of modified vehicle is a stretched limousine.

4.2 A modified vehicle may have seats for more than 8 passengers. If this is the case, the driver of the vehicle will commit an offence if he/she permits more than 8 people to be carried in the vehicle.

4.3 The Council will not normally require the display of an external vehicle identification plate on a modified private hire vehicle. The internal vehicle identification plate must be displayed in a position where it is visible to passengers (not necessarily on the dashboard of the vehicle).

4.4 Only licensed private hire vehicle drivers that hold a DVLA licence permitting them to drive class 'C1' vehicles (vehicles between 3500kg and 7500kg) may drive modified private hire vehicles. All drivers passing their driving test prior to 1997 received 'grandfather rights' to drive this class of vehicle, but those licensed subsequently will have to pass a test in a vehicle typical of the class, such as a minibus.

4.5 A private hire operator may only accept a booking for the hire of modified vehicle if it is made at least 24 hours in advance of the commencement of the journey. The operator must provide the hirer with written confirmation of the booking. This must state the name and address of the hirer, details of the journey, the hire charge and a statement as to the maximum number of passengers that may be carried in vehicle.

4.6 A copy of the written confirmation must be provided to the driver of the vehicle and be carried in the vehicle throughout the hire period.

In addition to the above, if modified private hire vehicles are employed to carry out journeys the following conditions also apply:

(a) Only bookings made at least 24 hours in advance of the journey commencement time may be accepted

(b) Written confirmation of the of the booking must be provided to the hirer and to the driver of the vehicle stating:

- i) the name and address of the hirer
- ii) details of the journey (time, pick-up point and destination and return, if any) and the date on which the booking is made
- iii) charge
- iv) a statement as to the maximum number of passengers that may be carried in the vehicle.

(c) Only licensed private hire vehicle drivers that hold a valid DVLA Group 2 licence permitting them to drive large goods vehicles, buses and coaches may carry passengers in such vehicles.