

**LICENSING PANEL****12 OCTOBER 2018**

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to consider an application to license a Mercedes E Class, registration number LS68 PZX, as a private hire vehicle outside the current criteria which states that side and rear windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through, and to exempt the vehicle from displaying Private Hire Vehicle Licence plates and to exempt the drivers of the vehicle from wearing their Private Hire Driver Badge due to the type of work undertaken by the applicant.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Licensing Panel consider whether or not to license the Mercedes E Class, registration number LS68 PZX, as a private hire vehicle which is fitted with "privacy glass" which lets in less than 70% light and provide the proprietor of the vehicle with a notice providing an exemption from the requirement to display Private Hire Vehicle Licence plates on the vehicle and to exempt the drivers of the vehicle from the requirement to wear a Private Hire Driver Badge.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 It is a delegated function of this Panel to determine matters relating to Private Hire Licences where officers do not have delegated authority.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The applicant is Mersey Chauffeurs Ltd who are the proprietor of six licensed private hire vehicles, five of which are fitted with privacy glass and all of which are exempt from displaying plates and the drivers of the vehicles are exempt from wearing a Private Hire Driver Badge due to the type of work the company undertakes. .
- 3.2 The current criteria for licensing private hire vehicles requires that the front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and all other windows must let at least 70% of light through. This criteria was introduced in September 2017.
- 3.3 The Council may exempt a vehicle from the requirement to display a plate or wear a badge in accordance with section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 which states:
- (3) Where a licence under section 48 of this Act is in force for a vehicle, the council which issued the licence may, by notice in writing given to the proprietor of the vehicle, provide that paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of that section shall not apply to the vehicle on any occasion specified in the notice or shall not apply while the notice is in the vehicle; and on any occasion on which by virtue of this subsection that paragraph does not apply to a vehicle section 54(2)(a) of this Act shall not apply to the driver of the vehicle.
- 3.4 This provides that a notice can be given by the Council that removes the need to display a plate and also dispenses with the requirement contained in section 54(2) of the Act that the driver should wear his badge in such a position and manner as to be plainly and distinctly visible.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 A decision of this Panel can be subject to appeal.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 The display of plates and badges provide a form of recognition and reference to members of the public that the vehicle and driver are licensed. The absence of plates or badges may affect the ability of members of the public to report incidents relating to the driver of the vehicle.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 This is not a matter that requires consultation.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Margaret Calvert  
*Licensing Team Leader*  
telephone: (0151) 691 8476  
email: [margaretcavert@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:margaretcavert@wirral.gov.uk)

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

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## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Licensing Panel	13 July 2018