

REGULATORY PANEL**3 NOVEMBER 2021**

REPORT TITLE	PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Regulatory Panel to consider an application to license a Vauxhall Insignia, registration number SE16 CJJ, 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Regulatory Panel consider whether or not to license the Vauxhall Insignia, registration number SE16 CJJ, 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.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 It is a delegated function of this Panel to approve vehicles that can be licensed as Private Hire Vehicles.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 That the application to license the Vauxhall Insignia, registration number SE16 CJJ, be refused as the vehicle does not comply with the current criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles in that the side and rear windows do not let at least 70% of light through.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In September 2017 Members of the Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee approved criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles.

- 3.2 Paragraph 36 of the criteria states that:

The front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and all other windows must let at least 70% of light through.

- 3.3 The proprietor of the vehicle, Ms Hampson, has applied to license the vehicle for six months.
- 3.4 The vehicle had been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle from 1 November 2016 until 31 October 2019 when the licence expired.
- 3.5 The date of first registration of the vehicle is 1 September 2015.
- 3.6 The vehicle has been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the test certificates will be provided in advance of the meeting.
- 3.7 The vehicle will be available for inspection at the meeting.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 48 provides that a district council shall not grant a licence unless it is satisfied that the vehicle is:

- Suitable in type, size and design for use as a Private Hire Vehicle
- Not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage
- In a suitable mechanical condition
- Safe and
- Comfortable
- That there is in force in relation to the use of the vehicle a policy of insurance

5.2 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 There are safety implications arising out of this report due to the safety aspects of private hire vehicles.

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.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Private Hire Vehicles contribute to harmful emissions including particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide which can be harmful to health.

10.2 Hybrid and electric cars emit less greenhouse gases and air pollutants than petrol and diesel cars. (*Source: European Environment Agency report 2018*)

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Private Hire Vehicle Licence Criteria