

Vehicle Licence Length

Following the policy changes that were introduced in April 2022, we will now be implementing the requirement that we will only issue one year vehicle licences effective from 6 pm on Wednesday 24th May 2023. This means that there will no longer be an option to apply for either a 4 month or 6 month licence. Any applications that have been paid for and submitted and received before this date will still be honoured, but when applicants come to renew, they will now only be able to apply for a one year licence and they will be required to take and pass a full vehicle test.

Birmingham Clean Air Zone (CAZ)

The Birmingham Clean Air Zone came into force in June 2021.

What will it mean for me if I have a fare to take to Central Birmingham?

Birmingham's Clean Air Zone will cover all the roads within the A4540 Middleway Ring Road, but not the Middleway itself.

Clean Air Zone charges are based on the vehicle and not the person driving or any passengers or goods being carried. Charges depend on the type of vehicle (eg car, bus, lorry, taxi) and what sort of engine it has.

To avoid paying to drive in the Clean Air Zone your vehicle will need to meet certain criteria, depending on the fuel type:

- Diesel – Euro 6 (VI) standard or better (most new registrations after 1 September 2015)
- Petrol or LPG added to original petrol engine – Euro 4 standard or better (most new registrations after 1 January 2006)
- Gas – Euro 6 (VI) standard or better
- Fully electric or hydrogen fuel cell – all are compliant and avoid CAZ charges
- Hybrid electric – the diesel/petrol engine must meet the relevant criteria above

If your vehicle does not meet one of the above criteria, the daily charge to drive in the CAZ will be:

Cars, Taxis (Hackney Carriages & Private Hire) LGVs £8 per day

HGVs, coaches and buses £50 per day

There is no charge for motorcycles, mopeds or scooters to drive in the CAZ.

Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022

On 28th June 2022, new legislation came into effect with regard to the carrying of disabled persons in licensed vehicles.

Driver Duties

- To carry the passenger
- If the passenger is in or has a wheelchair, to carry the wheelchair
- If the passenger has any mobility aids with them, to carry the mobility aids
- To take such steps as are reasonable to ensure that the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort
- To give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonably required
- Not to make or propose to make any additional charge for complying with any of the duties mentioned above.
- To take such steps as are reasonable to assist the passenger to identify and find the vehicle which has been hired whether hired by the disabled person themselves, or another person that wishes to accompany them if they have been made aware at the time of the booking that the passenger requires assistance.

Mobility Aids means any item the passenger uses to assist with their mobility but does not include a wheelchair or an assistance dog. The wheelchair is required to be transported in the vehicle though at no extra charge.

Mobility Assistance means assistance to enable the passenger to get into or out of the vehicle and to load the passenger luggage, wheelchair or mobility aids into and/or out of the vehicle.

The Act does not require the driver, unless the vehicle is of a description prescribed by the Secretary of State, to carry more than one wheelchair on any one journey or to carry a person in circumstances in which it would otherwise be lawful for the driver to refuse to carry the person.

A person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

The Act extends the duty to carry a disabled passenger to all hackney carriage, dual and private hire drivers and not just those driving a designated vehicle.

A driver of a taxi or private hire vehicle commits an offence by failing to comply with a duty imposed as detailed above and if found guilty of this offence is likely to receive a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale which is currently £1,000. Anybody that is found guilty will also be referred to committee for consideration as to whether or not they are fit and proper to continue with their licence.

Changes to the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy

Interim Safety Checks

From May 2022, all vehicles will require one interim safety check each year.

Appointments to attend the Taxi Licensing Office

From April 2020 the drop in service was removed and customers will only be seen if they have an appointment. Anyone attending the office without an appointment will not be seen and will be asked to leave.

Submitting an Application

With the exception of the vehicle transfer form, all applications for vehicle and driver licences must be made on line by visiting the following page https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200367/licensing/359/taxi_and_private_hire_licences/2 and then scrolling down the page to click on the red box for the type of licence that you wish to apply for. You will be required to make payment online before your application is processed. Please note that the fee charged is the licence fee only. Should you require a garage appointment for either a compliance/MOT test or an interim safety check, an additional fee is payable at the time of booking the appointment.

Medicals

From the week commencing 9th January 2023 you will have the choice on who conducts your Group 2 Medical Check. As well as still being able to attend the Occupational Health Department at Sandwell Hospital, you will also now be able to have your medical carried out by your own doctor or another GMC registered Medical Practitioner if they offer this service. Please note that any fees for conducting the medical are payable by you and that Sandwell Council will not get involved in any disputes over payments of fees or charges set by the provider.

When you attend your appointment with your chosen provider you must show two forms of identification to prove your identity – further information on the documents that are acceptable can be found on the Certificate to be returned.

The completed medical form must be submitted by email to Sandwell Council by the driver to taxi_licensing@sandwell.gov.uk and include the word medical in the subject line and either the applicant's badge number or their application reference number.

Please note that all bookings for medical examinations are the responsibility of the applicant or licensed driver. The Taxi Licensing Office cannot provide advice, guidance, or recommendations in respect of the providers of such medical examinations.

How to obtain a free copy of your last 2 years of Medical Records

Visit the following website for information on how you can access your records - <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/how-to-get-your-medical-records/>

If you have the NHS App you can download your records for your medical.

Using your NHS account

You can get your GP record by logging into your account using the NHS app or NHS website.

First, you need to register for online services and prove who you are. You can do this when you create an account.

You'll need to ask your GP surgery for online access to your full record, or you'll only see your medicines and allergies.

Get your GP record using your NHS account

Log in

Create an account

Alternatively you can submit a data request to your GP for the information which they should supply to you free of charge but this will take longer. To make a data request please visit the following web pages for advice - <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/corporate-information-and-documents/publication-scheme/how-to-make-a-subject-access-request>

Garage Appointments

From 28th February 2023, the taxi team will no longer be booking garage appointments. Appointments should be made using your online account which you used when submitting your application. Please note that the Taxi Licensing Office will be unable to change any appointments that you book, and should you wish to change the date, again this will need to be done through your online account. The appointment will not be confirmed until you have made payment online.

During 2023, other garages will be invited to apply to be added to an approved list to carry out Interim Safety Checks and Compliance/MOT tests. As and when these garages are approved, details will be made available on this page.

How to obtain a copy of your MOT Certificate

Go to the following website - <https://www.gov.uk/replacing-lost-damaged-mot-certificate>

And when the page below appears follow the instructions on screen to obtain a free copy of your MOT certificate.

Replace a lost or damaged MOT certificate

You can get a replacement MOT certificate online if you've lost or damaged the original. This service is free.

You'll need:

- the vehicle registration (number plate)
- the 11-digit number from the vehicle log book (V5C)

You cannot use this service for heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), trailers or public service vehicles (PSVs). Instead, fill in a [document replacement form for HGVs and trailers \(VTG59\)](#) or a [document replacement form for PSVs \(VTP6\)](#).

[Start now >](#)

Last Updated on 23rd May 2023