

2 October 2024

Response to Request for Information - 7263298

Issuing of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles

I can confirm that the information requested is held by City of Wolverhampton Council. I have detailed below in blue the information that is being released to you.

Request

I am writing to formally request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the issuing of taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licenses by Wolverhampton Council to applicants with addresses within the Sheffield City Council postcode areas, specifically covering postcodes S1 to S75.

I am requesting the following information:

1. ****Number of Taxi and PHV Licenses Issued:****
 - Please provide a yearly breakdown of taxi and PHV licenses issued to applicants in Sheffield postcodes (S1-S75) from ****1st January 2020 to 31st December 2023****, and up to ****31st August 2024****.
 - The breakdown should include:
 - Number of PHV licenses issued

01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Vehicle Licences Issued – 17

01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Vehicle Licences Issued – 13

01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Vehicle Licences Issued – 75

01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Vehicle Licences Issued – 231

01 January 2024 to 31 August 2024

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Vehicle Licences Issued – 258

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- Number of taxi driver badges issued

01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

Hackney Carriage Driver Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Driver Licences Issued – 28

01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Hackney Carriage Driver Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Driver Licences Issued – 26

01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Hackney Carriage Driver Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Driver Licences Issued – 110

01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Hackney Carriage Driver Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Driver Licences Issued – 422

01 January 2024 to 31 August 2024

Hackney Carriage Driver Licences Issued – 0

Private Hire Driver Licences Issued – 290

- Any other associated licenses or permissions issued
None

2. ****Income Received:****

- For each of the years mentioned (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and up to 31st August 2024), please provide a forensic breakdown of income received by Wolverhampton Council from applicants residing in Sheffield postcodes (S1-S75) for the following categories:
 - PHV licenses
 - Taxi driver badges
 - MOT fees
 - Medical assessments
 - Replacement badges or licenses
 - Any other related fees or charges

Fees received 2021

£5 x 1 lost badge
£25 x 2 home office check
£40 x 10 private hire driver renewal
£60 x 1 private hire driver 3-year renewal fee
£64 x 3 private hire driver new
£100 x 3 private hire driver fast track fee
£100 x 5 private hire driver renewal
£120 x 8 private hire driver new
£135 x 12 private hire vehicle new
£299 x 1 private hire vehicle new

Fees received 2022

£1 x 1 replacement paper licence
£5 x 2 lost badge
£25 x 4 home office check
£40 x 8 private hire driver renewal
£64 x 12 private hire driver new
£100 x 9 private hire driver fast track fee
£100 x 7 private hire driver renewal
£120 x 83 private hire driver new
£125 x 2 home office check
£135 x 69 private hire vehicle new
£169 x 2 private hire vehicle new
£180 x 1 private hire vehicle fast track fee
£299 x 4 private hire vehicle new

Fees received 2023

£2.50 x 3 lost badge
£5 x 4 replacement badges / licences
£10 x 2 replacement badges
£25 x 9 home office check
£39 x 6 private hire driver renewal
£40 x 5 private hire driver renewal
£49 x 21 private hire driver new
£64 x 21 private hire driver new
£78 x 7 private hire driver renewal
£95 x 159 private hire vehicle new
£98 x 192 private hire driver new
£100 x 2 private hire driver renewal
£100 x 1 private hire driver fast track fee
£120 x 169 private hire driver new
£125 x 5 home office check

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£135 x 68 private hire vehicle new
£169 x 4 private hire vehicle new
£180 x 2 private hire vehicle fast track fee

Fees received 2024

£5 x 1 lost badge
£25 x 1 home office check
£39 x 17 private hire driver renewal
£49 x 29 private hire driver new
£64 x 2 private hire driver new
£78 x 16 private hire driver renewal
£95 x 146 private hire vehicle new
£98 x 217 private hire driver new
£100 x 1 private hire driver fast track fee
£120 x 9 private hire driver new
£125 x 8 home office check
£125 x 112 private hire vehicle new

3. ****Expenditure:****
- For the same years (2020-2024), please provide details of how the income received from Sheffield postcode applicants was spent by Wolverhampton Council, including any operational, administrative, or enforcement-related expenditures.
[All income received is re-invested into the service.](#)
4. ****Licensing and Enforcement Team:****
- How many individuals are employed in your licensing service team?
88
 - How many individuals are part of the enforcement team responsible for carrying out duties outside of Wolverhampton district boundaries?
13

- Please provide a detailed breakdown of the enforcement activities carried out ****outside the Wolverhampton district**** for the same years (2020-2024), specifically regarding:
 - Number of licenses suspended
 - Number of licenses revoked

| | Suspensions | Revocations |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2020 | 1031 | 417 |
| 2021 | 1028 | 292 |
| 2022 | 1554 | 471 |
| 2023 | 2381 | 732 |
| 2024 | 2055 | 727 |

- Instances of non-compliance with door signage requirements
- Any other enforcement actions taken (please provide a detailed list with outcomes).

With reference to the above questions, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- states the fact,
- specifies the exemption in question and
- states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

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The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
 - (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
 - (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to your request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full-scale look into all individual records. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

Excess cost removes the City of Wolverhampton Council's obligation under the Freedom of Information, however under Section 16 – (the duty to provide advice and assistance, the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request.

5. ****Fee Calculation:****

- Please provide a detailed explanation of how all the fees associated with PHV licenses, taxi badges, MOTs, medical assessments, and any other charges are calculated.

The service is non-profit making and therefore all fees received are used to forecast the expenditure required to maintain the service and the fees are adjusted accordingly

- Clarify if there are any adjustments or considerations made for applicants residing outside the Wolverhampton district (e.g., those in Sheffield postcodes).

Application fees are the same for all drivers/proprietors and operators regardless of residential area.

Please quote the reference number 7263298 in any future communications.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Information Governance Team
Governance
City of Wolverhampton Council
Civic Centre
St. Peter's Square
Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

Email: foi@wolverhampton.gov.uk

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner, contact details can be found on their website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

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