

Appendix A



CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Group II Medical Assessments for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers

October 2014

Licensing & Enforcement
Cambridge City Council
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As the Licensing Authority, Cambridge City Council (the Council) is committed to providing the city with a top quality Private Hire and Hackney Carriage service for its residents and visitors alike.

1.2 The process for obtaining a driver's licence is therefore targeted at various aspects to ensure that the Council can be satisfied that an individual is a 'fit and proper' person to hold such a licence.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 A medical assessment is required for all new Private Hire, Hackney Carriage and Dual Driver applicants (unless they hold a current HGV or PSV licence in which case if a driver holds one of these licences it will not be necessary for them to have a further medical, provided they have the Class 2 Provisional Medical entitlement placed onto their DVLA Licence) and thereafter at the age of 45.

2.2 Once a licensed driver has reached the age of 45 the medical assessment must be renewed five-yearly and, at the age of 65, it will last for one year and be required annually thereafter.

2.3 If a driver is diagnosed with a medical condition which may affect his or her driving ability at any time, the Council may require either more frequent medical checks and/ or supporting evidence from medical specialists or consultants.

2.4 The Council requires that all drivers must meet the Group II medical standards for Category C1 vehicles as set out by the Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA):

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/351444/aagv1.pdf

2.5 New and licenced drivers must arrange an examination with one of the two medical practitioners approved by the Council to undertake medical assessments.

2.6 It is the applicant's responsibility to pay all of the expenses that they incur in satisfying the medical criteria, which may include the cost of undertaking an exercise or other form of test to ascertain fitness to drive.

2.7 Currently the Council has two designated medical practitioners which have been approved to undertake the medical assessments. In January 2014 Members of Cambridge City Council Licensing Committee agreed that consultation with relevant organisations be carried out to ascertain whether or not it would be more efficient to require certification of fitness to be undertaken by the individual driver's GP.

2.8 After discussion with and following advice from the Local Medical Committee, the possibility of drivers using their own GP for the medical assessment could be an alternative but not obligatory.

2.9 It is therefore proposed that the Council seek to consult on the potential to increase the number of designated medical practitioners (in addition to the already nominated two) in order to provide a wider range of service for drivers and also to offer drivers the option of using their own GP (if they are familiar with the Group II Medical Standards).

3. SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Objectives

The primary objective is that a wider range of designated practitioners are able to undertake the medical examination assessments for new and existing Hackney, Private Hire and Dual Drivers.

3.2 Detailed Requirements

It would be necessary for the GP's undertaking the assessments to be fully aware of the standards which the Council requires and for a common form of assessment and certification to be adopted and introduced.

Following the consultation, a report will be presented back to Licensing Committee in January with the outcome of the consultation, recommendations for Members and an agreed action plan where appropriate.

3.3 Programme

Action	Target Date	By
Preparation of service specification and consultation paper	By 24 October 2014	Cambridge City Council
Development of form of certification for Group II Medical Assessments.	By 24 October 2014	Cambridge City Council
Consultation with GP's via Gateway system.	3 November – 23 November 2014	Cambridge City Council/ LMC
Consultation with Trade on tabled options	3 November – 23 November 2014	Cambridge City Council
Collation of results	By 10 January 2015	Cambridge City Council
Preparation of Committee Report	By 14 January 2015	Cambridge City Council
Report to Licensing Committee with findings from Consultation and recommendations.	26 January 2015	Cambridge City Council

3.4 Other Requirements

The main objective for the Council, as the Licensing Authority is to ensure that drivers licensed by it are medically fit to do so and consideration must be given whether to retain the existing arrangement or to expand the number of approved practitioners in order that the objective is delivered.

3.5 Term

It is anticipated that any changes to the current system in place would take effect from April 2015.

4. BUDGET

4.1 It would be up to the individual practices to set and collect the appropriate fees in order to carry out the Group II Medical Assessment.

4.2 It is the responsibility of the driver to pay all of the expenses which are incurred in undergoing a Group II Medical Assessment in order to ascertain fitness to drive.

5. CONSULTATION & INVITATION

5.1 You are invited to:

- i) Comment on whether to retain the existing arrangement;
- ii) Comment on whether to expand the number of approved practitioners and allow individuals to use their own GP For Group II Medicals;
- iii) Comment on the proposed medical assessment form and certificate.

Any comments or expressions of interest can be submitted to:

Cambridge City Council Licensing & Enforcement Team

PO Box 700

Cambridge

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Tel: 01223 457876

Email: licensing@cambridge.gov.uk

The closing date for the consultation is 23 November 2014.

6. PROVIDER AND SERVICE MANAGER DETAILS

6.1 Any queries relating to the service specification can be directed to:

Yvonne O'Donnell
Environmental Health Manager
Cambridge City Council

Tel: 01223 457951
Email: Yvonne.odonnell@cambridge.gov.uk

Robert Osbourn
Licensing & Enforcement Manager
Cambridge City Council

Tel: 01223 457894
Email: Robert.osbourn@cambridge.gov.uk

7. ENCLOSURES

7.1 The current version of Cambridge City Council Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Dual Driver Group II Medicals Procedure with the Medical Certificate Document as Appendix A.

7.2 The proposed Medical Assessment Form and Certificate.