

Ages of Public/Private Hire Vehicles

Trafford Council has a policy as regards the maximum ages of public/private hire vehicles when they are first licensed:-

- Private Hire Vehicles 4 years
- Hackney carriage Vehicles 10 years

After first licensing the maximum age limits are:

- Private Hire Vehicle 6 years
- Hackney Carriage Vehicle 15 years

These maximum age limits are subject to the proviso that if an older vehicle is deemed by the Council's Transport section to be in exceptional condition it can be eligible to be licensed.

What is meant by 'exceptional condition'?

From the dictionary – *'exceptional' – rare, unusual or different.*

'condition' – state of being

For a vehicle to be regarded as in exceptional condition it must appear to be in substantially better condition than would normally be expected for a vehicle of the maximum age (see above).

Indications of which include:-

General

- Lower than average mileage recorded
- Evidence of a high standard of maintenance

Interior

- Seats, carpet, roof lining, trim, and dashboard free from cuts, burns, scratches, extensive wear, heavy soiling and staining
- Seat padding firm
- All trim and fittings secured correctly
- Surface of driving controls free from extensive wear
- Previous use of overmats and seat covers

Under Bonnet

- Clean and tidy appearance
- No evidence of accident damage or repairs to accident damage
- No visible corrosion or evidence of repairs to corrosion damage
- Under bonnet components correctly secured

- Engine/gearbox etc. free from oil or other leaks
- No evidence of incorrect maintenance or repairs

Luggage Space

- No dampness or other evidence of ingress of water
- Trim free from cuts, burns, scratches, extensive wear, heavy soiling and staining
- No trim missing
- All trim correctly fitted and secured

Exterior

- General appearance to a high standard
- No accident or other damage
- No evidence of extensive repairs to accident damage
- No noticeable repairs to accident damage (poor quality repairs)
- No visible corrosion or evidence of repairs to corrosion damage
- Paint finish glossy and free from extensive chipping, scratches and other blemishes
- Bumpers and all trim correctly secured and aligned

The above represent examples of the indicators which may be used when assessing whether a vehicle is in exceptional condition, it is not intended as a complete checklist or inspection format.