

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Medical Requirements for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

This Certificate must be completed by a Registered Medical Practitioner. This Certificate is not one which must be issued free of charge as part of the National Health Service. The Council accepts no liability to pay for it, and unless any other arrangements have been made, the applicant is to pay the fee charged.

A certificate is required:

- (1) At the time of the first application for a licence.
- (2) At the age of 47 and every 3 years thereafter.
- (3) At the age of 65 and every year thereafter.

The Council may withhold the issue of a driver's licence pending receipt of a satisfactory medical report.

As a taxi or private hire vehicle driver driving members of the public in all weathers, day or night, you are required to have the same standards of fitness as any other public service vehicle driver. These are higher than for those who hold only the ordinary driving licence.

For instance:

You cannot hold a public service vehicle driver's licence if you have had even one epileptic attack in the last 10 years or have been on medication for epilepsy in the last 10 years.

Heart and blood pressure problems may be a bar.

You should not be needing insulin injections for diabetes.

If you have had a stroke, unexplained loss of consciousness, severe head injury with continuing after effects, major brain surgery, Parkinson's disease, or multiple sclerosis, you will not be suitable.

You should not be being treated for mental or nervous problems, and if you have had drink or drug problems or suffered mental illness in recent years you will also not be suitable.

Your vision is particularly important, and should reach a certain standard in each of both eyes. Double vision, tunnel vision, or having only one eye is a bar.

Applicants should be numerate and literate.

If your hearing is so bad that you cannot use a telephone in an emergency you will be unsuitable.

There are certain other medical conditions which make vocational driving inadvisable and your doctor should be able to advise you.

Referral to a specialist may be necessary in some cases.

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTE TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

Taxi and Private Hire drivers drive at all times of day and night in all weather conditions. They should be considered as professional drivers alongside drivers of public service vehicles. Standards of fitness should be based on PSV standards. In completing this certificate medical practitioners are asked to have regard to the recommendations by the Medical Commission for Accident Prevention in their booklet "Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive" or to the notes for the guidance of Doctors conducting those examinations prepared by the British Medical Association.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

VISION

Applicants who wear glasses should be advised always to carry a spare pair.

Monocularity is a bar.

In cases of amblyopia where there is doubt, it is advisable to obtain the opinion of an ophthalmologist.

Uncorrected static visual acuity must be at least 3/60 in each eye, and the corrected vision should be 6/9 in one eye and 6/12 in the other or better.

LITERACY

Applicants should be literate.

MENTAL HEALTH

Psychiatric Disorder. Some significant conditions rendering a driver unfit include depressive psychosis, manic depression, hypo-mania, neurosis on treatment, psychotic disorder, personality disorder, psychopathic disorder, alcohol and/or drug addiction.

EPILEPSY

Drivers must first hold an ordinary driving licence and in addition must have been fit free and off medication for 10 years. They must see a neurologist who can confirm that the individual is not liable to epileptic seizure.

Patients with lung cancer are recommended not to drive professionally for five years, even after treatment, due to possible risk of cerebral secondaries provoking epilepsy.

RETURN FORM TO:

Licensing
Service Delivery
Wat Tyler West
Beckhampton Street
Swindon
SN1 2JH

NAME OF APPLICANT:

ADDRESS:

DATE OF BIRTH:

QUESTION	ANSWER
1 (a) Has the applicant, to the best of your knowledge, ever had an epileptic attack since the age of 3?	1(a)
(b) Is the applicant, to the best of your judgement, subject to:-	
(i) vertigo, or sudden attacks of disabling giddiness or fainting including diabetic hypoglycemia?	(b) (i)
(ii) any mental ailment likely to interfere with the efficient discharge of his/her duties as the driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle?	(b) (ii)
2. Does he/she suffer from any heart or lung disorder or defect which might interfere with the efficient discharge of his/her duties as a driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle?	2.
3. Are the blood pressure readings normal having regard to the applicant's age? If not, do you consider that the abnormal blood pressure would be likely to affect his/her competence as a driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle?	3.
4. (a) Acuity of vision (with glasses if worn) by Snellens test type.	4. (a) Right eye Left eye
(b) Did the applicant wear his own glasses/contact lenses for the test?	(b)
(c) Is the applicant's field of vision by hand test satisfactory?	(c)
(d) Is there double vision?	(d)
(e) Do you consider that the applicant's vision is likely to cause the driving by him/her of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle to be a source of danger to the public?	(e)

This Certificate must be completed by a Registered Medical Practitioner. The Council accepts no liability to pay for it, and unless any other arrangements have been made, the applicant is to pay the fee charged.

A certificate is required:

- (1) At the time of the first application for a licence.
- (2) At the age of 47 and every 3 years thereafter.
- (3) At the age of 65 and every year thereafter.

The Council may withhold issue of a driver's licence pending receipt of a satisfactory medical report.

5. Is there any defect of hearing? If so, do you consider that it would interfere with the efficient performance of the Applicant's duties as a driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle?	5.
6. Has the applicant any deformity, loss of limbs or physical disability? If so, could it interfere with the efficient performance of his/her duties as a driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle?	6.
7. Does the applicant show any evidence of being addicted to the excessive use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs?	7.
8. Is the applicant, in your opinion, generally fit as regards: (a) bodily health; and (b) temperament for the duties of a driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle?	8 (a) (b)
9. Do you consider further examination necessary before the periods specified? If so, when would you advise re-examination?	9.

I certify that I have today examined _____
who has signed this form in my presence.

Signature of applicant _____
(To be signed in the presence of the examining Medical Practitioner)

I ***have/do not have** full knowledge of the applicant's past medical history.

The answers to the foregoing questions are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and I consider the applicant ***fit/unfit** to act as a driver of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle.

*** Delete as necessary.**

<p><u>Medical Practitioner Details</u></p> <p>Name</p> <p>Address</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Surgery Stamp</p>
--	-----------------------------

Signature of Medical Practitioner **Date**

NOTICE



The information supplied will be used to administer the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing system. This authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided as part of this application for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.

For further information, see the Council's website (www.swindon.gov.uk/nfi) or contact the council's Internal Audit section at Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid street, Swindon SN1 2JH.

Under the Data Protection Act you can see your own personal information. If you would like to know more about this, please ask for our leaflet 'Access to your personal information'. Or contact the Data Protection Officer at Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid street, Swindon SN1 2JH.