

## What is the difference between a Hackney Carriage and a Private Hire Vehicle?

Legally, hackney carriages and private hire vehicles are treated as two separate entities, and the way in which they look and can operate is very different. The Council are required to set the standards and conditions that apply to each type of vehicle, which are generally used to give each a different appearance.

Both types of vehicles must display plastic 'plates' issued by the Council on the back of the vehicle. Blue and white plates are issued to hackney carriages, and yellow plates to private hire vehicles.

Drivers of both types of vehicle must also wear their licence 'badge' while working. In Broxbourne, all drivers' badges are printed on plastic cards, in a blue surround for hackney carriage, yellow surround for private hire, blue and yellow surround for dual licence holders and red surround for restricted private hire licensed drivers.

Each vehicle has a comment sticker in it which details the plate number should you wish to make a compliment/complaint about the driver or vehicle to the Council. The vehicle plate states the maximum number of passengers permitted in the vehicle and this number should never be exceeded as it may void the motor insurance for the journey.

The table below summarises some of the main differences between the two types of licensed vehicles.

Feature	Hackney Carriage	Private Hire Vehicle
Appearance	Be capable of seating a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 passengers. Minimum size of seats/age of vehicle etc detailed in our <a href="#">Hackney carriage and private hire handbook</a> .	Be capable of seating a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 passengers. Minimum size of seats/age of vehicle etc detailed in our <a href="#">Hackney carriage and private hire handbook</a> .
Plates	Must display a hackney carriage licence plastic rectangular plate on the rear of the vehicle. It is Blue and white in colour	Must display a private hire licence plastic rectangular plate on the rear of the vehicle. It is yellow in colour. Executive and special event vehicles are required to display a disc in the front window rather than the plate on the rear.
Roof Sign	Must display a roof sign bearing the word 'taxi'	Not permitted to have a roof sign
Maximum Fares	Hackney carriages must have meters fitted, and may not charge more than the Broxbourne set tariff for journeys that start and end within the Borough of Broxbourne.	There are no maximum fares, the fare is set by the operator at the time of booking
Use of Taxi Ranks	Hackney carriages can use the taxi ranks within the borough	Private hire vehicles cannot use taxi ranks
Hailing	Hackney carriages can be hailed within the borough if the for hire sign is lit	Private hire vehicles cannot be hailed or flagged down
Pre Booking	Hackney carriages can undertake pre booked work	Private hire vehicles can <b>only</b> undertake pre booked work through a Broxbourne licensed operator
Contract Work	Hackney carriages can undertake contract work	Private hire vehicles can <b>only</b> undertake contract work through a Broxbourne Licensed operator