

HACKNEY

CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE



NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2026

Inside this issue...

Keeping your
vehicle clean

Private hire
operators

Recognise spiking

Air quality

Stop smoking

LGR

The Government has announced it is pausing Local Government Reorganisation in Hertfordshire.

[LGR pause in Hertfordshire: Statement from the Leader of the Council – Borough of Broxbourne Council](#)

Vehicle licence renewals

The Council is moving vehicle licence renewals online. At least one month prior to the vehicle licence expiry, we will send a link via text inviting you to renew the licence. Once a completed application has been received online, this will be reviewed and then a link will be emailed for payment.



Once the payment has been made, we will action the renewal request within 5 working days and notify the applicant when the plate/licence is available for collection.

This will reduce postage costs and streamline the process.



The Council has received important guidance to share with licensed drivers regarding county lines:

<https://www.broxbourne.gov.uk/downloads/file/5200/guidance-for-taxis-and-private-hire-vehicles>

Disclosure and Barring update service

When a driver completes and subsequently receives their next DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate, they will be required to join the DBS update service. You can join the Update Service with your certificate number when you receive your DBS certificate. You must do so within 28 calendar days of the 'date of issue' which is printed on the certificate. The cost is £15.00 annually. If you do not renew your subscription and it expires, then you would need to complete another DBS application form at a further cost of £72 and then join the DBS update service again. If you save your payment card when registering, then the update service will automatically deduct the renewal payment from the card. However, if the card has since expired then the payment will fail, so please be mindful of the renewal date.

Keeping your vehicle clean

One of the essential aspects of being a taxi driver is maintaining a clean and hygienic environment for both you and your passengers. Keep these points in mind when cleaning your taxi:

- A dirty or smudged windscreen, wing mirror and rear-view mirror can obstruct your view, making it difficult to see the road and other road users. This can lead to accidents.
- It's crucial to clean taxis regularly to avoid the accumulation and spread of germs. This will ensure a safe and healthy environment for both you and your passengers.
- A clean taxi makes the ride more enjoyable for passengers and also leaves a positive impression. This can potentially result in positive reviews and increased bookings.



Private hire operators

Licensing staff are currently carrying out visits to Broxbourne-licensed private hire operator bases to ensure the private hire operator conditions are being met. The conditions are detailed on our website:

[private-hire-operator-conditions-new-policy](#)

If you are unclear about any of the requirements detailed in the conditions, please contact the Taxi Licensing Office to discuss.

New right to work enforcement duties for private hire operators from 1 October 2026

New right to work requirements for private hire drivers will come into force on 1 October 2026, placing a statutory duty on operators to verify a driver's immigration status before allowing them to work. The change, confirmed in a recent parliamentary written question and highlighted in sector briefings, represents a significant shift in the regulatory landscape for taxi and private hire licensing. Please see more information in the attached link:

[New right to work enforcement duties from 1 October](#)

Air quality

Poor air quality is a major health concern and the main source of pollution is road transport. Particulate Matter (PM) in cities can come from taxis and cars. Idling engines contribute to local air pollution, which is harmful to health. Please switch off your engine if parked for a minute or longer to help improve local air quality. Please be particularly mindful around schools during pick up time.

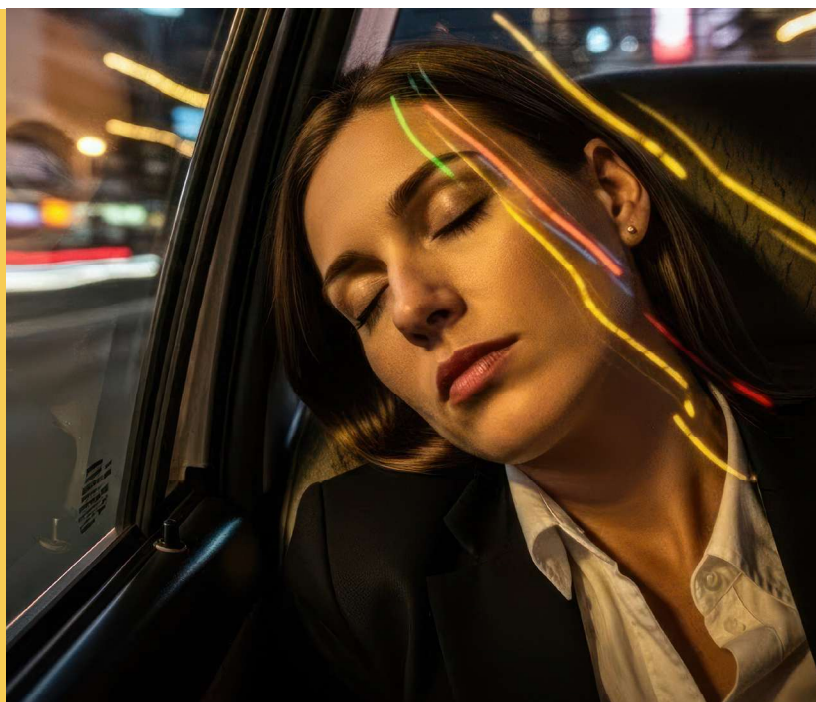


Recognise spiking

Spiking can make you seriously ill. The signs you should look out for yourself or someone in your vehicle, include:

- **Confusion and disorientation**
- **Nausea and vomiting**
- **Hallucinations and paranoia**
- **Poor co-ordination and vision**
- **An inability to communicate clearly**
- **Memory loss and blackouts.**

[Spiking: advice and support - GOV.UK](#)



Stop Smoking



Here are some key reasons to stop smoking:

- **Health Benefits:** Quitting smoking reduces the risk of diseases and disabilities, as smoking harms nearly every organ in your body and is the leading cause of preventable death.
- **Immediate Healing:** Your body begins to heal within 20 minutes of quitting, with improvements in blood circulation and lung function.
- **Reproductive Health:** For women, quitting smoking is crucial for a healthy pregnancy and baby, with benefits occurring at any time during pregnancy.
- **Improved Quality of Life:** Quitting smoking leads to better breathing, improved sleep, and a fresher environment, free from the smell of smoke.

Better mental health

You may think that smoking supports your mental wellbeing, and helps you to relax, deal with stress and anxiety, and cope with life's difficulties.

In fact, the opposite is true. Stopping smoking boosts mental health and wellbeing.

Evidence shows that after the withdrawal stage of quitting, people have reduced anxiety, depression and stress.

Those who have quit smoking also report improved mood compared with those who continue to smoke.

[Find a stop smoking support service on NHS.uk](#)

