

Supplementary Agenda



Licensing Committee

Tue 18 Mar
2025
7.00 pm

Oakenshaw Community
Centre, Castleditch Lane.



If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact

**Gavin Day
Democratic Services Officer**

Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH

Tel: (01527) 64252 (Ext. 3304)

e.mail: gavin.day@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

Licensing

Tuesday, 18th March, 2025

7.00 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

David Munro (Chair)

Sachin Mathur (Vice-Chair)

Juliet Barker Smith

Brandon Clayton

Matthew Dormer

Sharon Harvey

Sid Khan

Gary Slim

Jen Snape

Monica Stringfellow

Paul Wren

4. Responses to consultation on mandatory safeguarding refresher training for taxi and private hire drivers (Pages 5 - 24)
5. Report on Primate licencing (Pages 25 - 30)

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MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Monica Stringfellow
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes - Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of the recent 12-week consultation with relevant stakeholders and members of the public on the proposal to introduce mandatory safeguarding awareness training and refresher training for all Redditch Borough Council licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers and ask that the recommendations as set out below be considered and approved.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS**2.1 Members are asked to:**

Note the contents of the report, and in particular the public consultation results at Appendix 1; and

Approve amendment to the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licensing Policy, as set out below:

- i. **Introduce mandatory safeguarding awareness training for all existing licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers, to commence from 1st July 2025.**
- ii. **Introduce three yearly mandatory safeguarding awareness refresher training for all licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers on renewal.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Consultation on the two proposed policy amendments took place over a 12-week period. It comprised of a survey which was available to complete online via the Council's website and was promoted by the Council's Communications Team, across a range of channels.

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Information on the consultation, along with details on how to respond were sent directly to:

- Redditch Borough Council licensed drivers, vehicle proprietors and private hire operators
- National Private Hire and Taxi Association
- Licensed Private Hire Car Association
- West Mercia Police
- Safer Roads Partnership
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
- Worcestershire County Council - Relevant contacts at Worcestershire County Council, including those responsible for safeguarding children and adults and arranging home to school transport
- Relevant interest groups, including those that represent people with disabilities and the elderly
- Relevant local business groups
- District, Town and Parish Councillors

- 3.2 In total there were 33 responses received to the online survey. Of the 33 respondents, 28 were holders of a taxi/private hire driver licence, 3 were users of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and 1 response was from a local councillor. A further response was also received from a Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services.
- 3.3 In response to question 3, 27.27% of respondents indicated that they agree with the Councils proposal to introduce mandatory safeguarding awareness training for all existing hackney carriage and private hire drivers as a requirement for renewing their licence. 72.73% disagreed.
- 3.4 There were 21 detailed responses received in relation to making the training mandatory, with the majority of the respondents questioning the proposal to implement Refresher Training. Six of the nineteen respondents were in favour and some held a neutral opinion.
- 3.5 In summary, the consultation results from those who expanded on their responses, highlighted a mixed reaction to the introduction of safeguarding awareness refresher training for all existing licence holders from 1 July 2025. However, many of the comments made for not undertaking the training focussed on time and cost to the driver not on the actual content and benefits of the training itself. Where there were those in agreement the comments highlighted the positive impact, it would have on public safety and the positivity of having the awareness of changes in legislation.

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- 3.6 Officers are aware that some drivers will have undertaken safeguarding training previously and the proposed 3-yearly update will reflect changes in guidance and legislation. The cost of the updated provision to supply these important updates would be kept to a minimum, improving standards for our drivers, service users and the Council.
- 3.7 The cost of this mandatory safeguarding training is £20.00 per applicant and will cover the 3-year licensing period. This is considered very good value, and therefore any consideration of the Council subsidising the cost of this training has been discounted. This also creates a consistent approach to applying this policy to all drivers.

4. Summary

- 4.1 In September 2022, in response to the publication of the Department of Transport's "Taxi & Private Hire Standards" the Council adopted and published a new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy ("taxi policy"), which introduced a requirement for all new drivers to undertake appropriate safeguarding awareness training, as part of a wider programme of driver training, entitled the 'Competency Certificate'.
- 4.2 Following further consideration of the "Taxi & Private Hire Standards" in relation to driver training, members of this Committee received a report in October 2024 proposing two further amendments to the taxi policy, these being
- 4.3 With effect from 1 July 2025 each time an existing licence holder renews their licence they must undertake safeguarding training delivered by the Council's approved training provider prior to submitting their renewal application. That all licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers must then undertake safeguarding awareness refresher training, every three years thereafter.
- 4.4 In June 2024 this Committee supported the principle of the two proposed amendments and approved the undertaking of a 12-week consultation exercise with trade members, key stakeholders, and the public, with the results being presented to Committee for consideration.
- 4.5 This report now presents the results of the consultation exercise, which can be found at **Appendix 1** and recommends to Members that the amendments as set out in the revised extract from the Council's current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, which can be seen at **Appendix 2**. Be approved and implemented.

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Financial Implications

- 3.10 The costs of the safeguarding awareness training itself will be met by the licence holder. Officers are working closely with the training provider to keep costs to a minimum and at cost recovery.

Legal Implications

- 3.11 The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Standards have been published by the Department for Transport under the powers set out in section 177 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.
- 3.12 Consultation on the proposals referred to in this report to amend this Council's policy was undertaken with licence holders, relevant stakeholders, and the general public over a 12-week period.
- 3.13 Appropriate consultation on any proposals to amend the Council's policies minimises the risk of legal challenge if the proposals are subsequently implemented.
- 3.14 The Department for Transport "Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice guidance" further states:

"It is good practice for local authorities to consult about any significant proposed changes in licensing rules. Such consultation should include not only the taxi and PHV trades but also groups likely to be the trades' customers. Examples are groups representing disabled people, or Chambers of Commerce, organisations with a wider transport interest (eg the Campaign for Better Transport and other transport providers), women's' groups or local traders"

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 There is a possible reputational risk to the Council, as the new hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy, introduced in September 2022, only introduced the Competency Certificate to new drivers. Although it was not intended to cause any issues the Council may want to mitigate any risk by ensuring all drivers are in some way exposed to safeguarding awareness training to protect the travelling public.
- 4.2 When introducing new, or amending existing Council policy, it is recommended that public and stakeholder consultation is undertaken on that policy, to minimise any risk of legal challenge. The Department for Transport "Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice guidance" further states

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“It is good practice for local authorities to consult about any significant proposed changes in licensing rules. Such consultation should include not only the taxi and PHV trades but also groups likely to be the trades’ customers. Examples are groups representing disabled people, or Chambers of Commerce, organisations with a wider transport interest (eg the Campaign for Better Transport and other transport providers), women’s’ groups or local traders”

Having considered the above a full 12-week consultation has taken place with licence holders, key stakeholders and the general public, with the results being considered by Members prior to the amendment of the Council’s Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licensing Policy.

5. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Consultation responses
- Appendix 2 – Amended Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy extract

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Department for Transport guidance under section 177 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 entitled “**Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Standards.**” [Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards)





AUTHOR OF REPORT



Name: Michelle James – Interim Principal Licensing Officer
Worcestershire Regulatory Services
E Mail: michelle.james@worcsregservices.gov.uk
Tel : 01562 738058

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Mandatory Safeguarding Refresher Training for Taxi and Private Hire Drivers - Redditch Borough Council



2. About you

1. Are you responding as:				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	A licensed hackney carriage / private hire driver		84.85%	28
2	A user of taxi and / or private hire vehicles		9.09%	3
3	A trade association		0.00%	0
4	A local group		0.00%	0
5	A local Councillor		3.03%	1
6	Other (please specify):		3.03%	1
			answered	33
			skipped	0
Other (please specify): (1)				
1	17/10/2024 12:24 PM ID: 255688398	Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services		

2. Are you responding on behalf of a group or organisation?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		6.06%	2
2	No		93.94%	31
			answered	33
			skipped	0
If you have answered YES, please provide details of the group or organisation you are responding on behalf of: (2)				
1	21/10/2024 11:40 AM ID: 256037516	A2B Taxis Redditch		
2	12/01/2025 4:30 AM ID: 261889677	Redditch Taxi Association		

3. Your views on the proposal

3. Do you agree with the principle that all those who are licensed by Redditch Borough Council to drive hackney carriage (taxi) and private hire vehicles should have to undergo mandatory refresher training from time to time?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		27.27%	9
2	No		72.73%	24
3	Don't know		0.00%	0
			answered	33
			skipped	0

Please provide an explanation for the answer you have given: (21)

1	17/10/2024 11:17 AM ID: 255673346	If you done it once than why keep going back to it. Means taking time out of work etc. At this rate most drivers will be moving to other areas.
2	17/10/2024 11:31 AM ID: 255676260	I agree that we should all be required to have some form of Safeguarding training. I would highly suggest this is done in cooperation with Worcestershire Regulatory Services and Warwickshire also - this way we can avoid having to do the same training 3 times. I also think all drivers should be given some basic customer service training too.
3	17/10/2024 11:57 AM ID: 255681414	This will be another cost to already overwhelming high fees and extra charges compared to other councils including Wychavon which is also run by Worcestershire County Council. No wonder a lot of drivers are moving to Wolverhampton and if this is passed I will be doing the same. There is no need for this to be put in place as it isn't going to make any difference to any driver currently holding a Hackney or Private hire badge
4	17/10/2024 12:05 PM ID: 255684753	Being in the trade for this long and being self employed we study upto date anyway. Council should consider lowering its fees for all licences. Especially since Worcestershire does all the work for Wolverhampton.
5	17/10/2024 12:24 PM ID: 255688398	I believe it is important for anyone who works with the general public to be up to date with issues around safeguarding, in particular those who are in contact with children and vulnerable people. Training on this protects both parties.
6	17/10/2024 1:52 PM ID: 255703825	This should be a free service and the drivers WILL NOT pay to book for the course. Majority of drivers have the customers best interests st heart and a genuine duty of care.
7	17/10/2024 4:54 PM ID: 255737190	Unless it's national , what's the point ? when I'm normally picked up by taxis from other areas, working in redditch. I would rather have English tests, ability to diffuse situations and for better communication
8	17/10/2024 5:42 PM ID: 255744393	I think this absolute rubbish, another way of making money from RBC or if even free a waste pf valuable time. If the driver or drivers have already done a course in 2020 they then should not need doing a refreher course as sont much has changed This is one of the reason's why reddyich council Has lost majority of its drivers to wolverhampton council becuae of stupid and sham Ideas to make money and amke a Mockery out of drivers. I completly appose such stupid and ridiculous idea!
9	17/10/2024 5:47 PM ID: 255744268	The training and all the information given will be the same. Therefore it's a waste if time going over what the drivers already know.



3. Do you agree with the principle that all those who are licensed by Redditch Borough Council to drive hackney carriage (taxi) and private hire vehicles should have to undergo mandatory refresher training from time to time?

10	19/10/2024 7:54 AM ID: 255869900	Because we have already done it once
11	19/10/2024 12:37 PM ID: 255885850	If a particular driver needs new training Then that person is not suitable for the job No training will change their behaviour
12	20/10/2024 10:09 AM ID: 255967895	I have been doing safeguarding course every three years already
13	21/10/2024 1:39 PM ID: 256051283	In theory yes very good although it's how it is done as 1 - If course requires time off work that is loss of money 2 - If course costs money that is more costs going out and very little taxi jobs now to cover costs on vehicle and badges and courses 3 - Surely if courses being added a first aid course would be more efficient 4 - Some drivers with badges only do school runs which then makes it not viable to do them as paying more out than you earn
14	25/10/2024 3:08 PM ID: 256487325	I believe it is our duty to ensure the public are safe when travelling in taxi's. I support mandatory and ongoing refresher training for taxi drivers.
15	28/10/2024 11:27 AM ID: 256623697	No we don't need any new training or need to be re trained again.
16	09/01/2025 12:56 PM ID: 261675327	This is a driver who has been doing his job for 20 years with no complaints against me. I do not agree that driver needs to be told how to do his job. This is solely to go with money only
17	09/01/2025 1:20 PM ID: 261677677	Dear Redditch Borough Council, Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed introduction of mandatory safeguarding awareness refresher training for licensed drivers. While I fully support initiatives aimed at protecting children, females, and vulnerable adults, I do not favour this proposal if it involves additional costs for drivers. The cost of living is currently very high, and work within the trade has slowed considerably. Many drivers are already struggling to manage their expenses, and further financial burdens may make it difficult for some to continue working. I would urge the Council to consider either subsidising this training or finding cost-neutral ways to implement it, ensuring drivers are not disproportionately affected. Thank you for considering my views. Yours sincerely,
18	10/01/2025 8:15 PM ID: 261848809	100% yes. The quality of driving by redditch taxi drivers is shocking. Wrong way up a one way street is very common by me. Parking overnight on double yellows, across junctions, blocking other permit paying residents in their streets. Smoking in the vehicle (had one guy the other day smoke a joint while he waited for his customer!) Vehicle condition is also terrible. Many wouldn't pass an MOT. There's a Silver BMW parked in Orchard street as of this response, been there weeks now. No tax, no MOT, (green badge 648). reported it several times to no avail. But yes, mandatory driving refresher tests for all drivers to include both a practical and theory test. Also increased MOT frequency would be a smart move.
19	12/01/2025 4:30 AM ID: 261889677	I think it'll be fair to say doing the mandatory training for a new applicant is very understandable for obvious reasons as we're all in favour of public safety, but once completed it'll be the same training on renewal which at the longest will be 3 years for those that have the 3 year licence or annually otherwise

3. Do you agree with the principle that all those who are licensed by Redditch Borough Council to drive hackney carriage (taxi) and private hire vehicles should have to undergo mandatory refresher training from time to time?

		<p>It is very very unlikely that drivers will forget the importance of this training or even the training itself as working in the public sector requires this knowledge to be at its peak at all times from all individual drivers especially if they've already recieved and completed this training from the begining</p> <p>Also it would require drivers having to pay for this training which would gradually increase as years go by, Living costs are very high in this day and age trade is decreasing in this industry day by day as other platforms are also available which are very reputable, trustworthy and offer the same level of safety and security</p> <p>Taxi vehicle licence fees are very expensive with RBC compared with other authorities especially wolverhampton city council and the vehicle age requirements differ alot</p> <p>Rather than working solely maybe authorities should work together & have similar views and not differentiate from one another</p> <p>So in this case im not in favour of this refresher training idea</p> <p>Many thanks</p>
20	12/01/2025 11:50 AM ID: 261675792	<p>However, due to our inflexible hours this would be difficult to navigate in person without losing earnings. Therefore, it should be online.</p> <p>It should also be free because we are already paying for various expenses out of pocket. The taxi Licensing free has increased significantly but the taxi fare hasn't increased for a long time. In Redditch, there is not a lot of work as the town centre is struggling. We are struggling to make a living.</p>
21	16/01/2025 10:09 AM ID: 261675605	<p>I agree that as a driver a refresher training is good. At the same time I do not agree with it being every 3 years unless there is a major change in legislation. Also do not agree with paying for it. We as drivers are already paying some of the highest licencing fees, the cost should be covered by the council.</p>



4. Do you agree that such licensed drivers should have to undertake mandatory safeguarding refresher training every THREE years (every time they apply to renew their licence)?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		24.24%	8
2	No		75.76%	25
3	Don't know		0.00%	0
			answered	33
			skipped	0
If you have answered NO, how often do you think licensed drivers should have undertake mandatory safeguarding refresher training? (17)				
1	17/10/2024 11:17 AM ID: 255673346	It should be upto the drivers if they require a refresher unless it's a new application.		
2	17/10/2024 11:31 AM ID: 255676260	This should be made accessible though - meaning 1/2 days per month availability is no good. Maybe even online would be a better option.		

4. Do you agree that such licensed drivers should have to undertake mandatory safeguarding refresher training every THREE years (every time they apply to renew their licence?)

3	17/10/2024 11:57 AM ID: 255681414	They shouldn't
4	17/10/2024 12:05 PM ID: 255684753	Once every 10 years.
5	17/10/2024 4:54 PM ID: 255737190	Asking same question twice
6	17/10/2024 5:42 PM ID: 255744393	Only 1 or atleast 10years
7	17/10/2024 5:47 PM ID: 255744268	I don't think safeguarding refresher training is necessary . But if the council insist on it , I think every 5 years would be more then adequate.
8	19/10/2024 7:54 AM ID: 255869900	Once when the first get there taxi badge
9	19/10/2024 12:37 PM ID: 255885850	No extra training The Council has the power to exclude a driver if they are reported
10	20/10/2024 10:09 AM ID: 255967895	New license holder only
11	21/10/2024 1:39 PM ID: 256051283	If it is a online course that costs nothing ok but otherwise NO Due to lack of work we shouldn't be looking at taking more money from drivers
12	09/01/2025 12:56 PM ID: 261675327	No at all it's all about money
13	09/01/2025 3:02 PM ID: 261687799	Drivers shouldn't have to take any mandatory training it should be voluntary and paid for by the council. We are all enhanced DBS checked most drivers who do school runs would have had training already. It's seem like another hit in the pocket of drivers.
14	10/01/2025 8:15 PM ID: 261848809	Annually. To include Practical test, Theory test, Drug testing and eye test.
15	12/01/2025 4:30 AM ID: 261889677	I dont feel the need of safeguarding refresher training every so often as mentioned above once its done and completed by an individual it should always remain at the top of their heads, there is no reason whatsoever to be forgetting anything of that nature & especially when your dealing with the public on a daily basis
16	12/01/2025 11:50 AM ID: 261675792	As long as it is free
17	16/01/2025 10:09 AM ID: 261675605	Only take the training if there are major changes in legislation.

5. Do you agree that the requirement to undertake mandatory safeguarding refresher training should come into effect on 1st July 2025 and apply to any licence holder who is applying to renew their licence after that date?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		27.27%	9
2	No		72.73%	24
3	Don't Know		0.00%	0
			answered	33
			skipped	0

If you have answered "NO" when do you think the requirement should come into effect? (14)

1	17/10/2024 11:57 AM ID: 255681414	Never
2	17/10/2024 12:05 PM ID: 255684753	Never
3	17/10/2024 1:52 PM ID: 255703825	Bookings and timeslots are a joke.
4	17/10/2024 4:54 PM ID: 255737190	Never , unless it's a national standard
5	17/10/2024 5:42 PM ID: 255744393	Never
6	18/10/2024 10:41 AM ID: 255796272	Never
7	19/10/2024 7:54 AM ID: 255869900	Only for new licence holder when they first apply
8	19/10/2024 12:37 PM ID: 255885850	No extra training
9	20/10/2024 10:09 AM ID: 255967895	Only new drivers
10	21/10/2024 1:39 PM ID: 256051283	When it is affordable or done for free
11	09/01/2025 12:56 PM ID: 261675327	Never
12	09/01/2025 3:02 PM ID: 261687799	2030 if we have no choice
13	12/01/2025 4:30 AM ID: 261889677	Only when applying for a licence the 1st time

5. Do you agree that the requirement to undertake mandatory safeguarding refresher training should come into effect on 1st July 2025 and apply to any licence holder who is applying to renew their licence after that date?

14	12/01/2025 11:50 AM ID: 261675792	I think it should only be in place for new drivers, I have been driving for over 30 years.
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4. Other comments or observations

6. If you have any other comments or observations in relation to the proposal please provide these here:





Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	11
1	17/10/2024 11:31 AM ID: 255676260	If there are driver who have already sat safeguarding training with Warwickshire County Council for example, so long as they can produce a certificate, they should be exempt. This is why I think having it in accordance with such Councils make sense so not to duplicate the same training with different authorities.		
2	17/10/2024 11:35 AM ID: 255678231	The council should foot the bill for this as we are already getting robbed blind for a service that we are not getting.		
3	17/10/2024 11:57 AM ID: 255681414	Please review your policies and update them If a driver requires a replacement vehicle after an accident? You won't let a vehicle licensed in another council be licensed here. This should be Amended as they credit hire company cars goes to all areas as required.		
4	17/10/2024 1:52 PM ID: 255703825	How about we ban Uber , they don't hold an operators licence in Redditch and should never be granted one, yet we see Wolverhampton driver sitting around Redditch picking up fares. How are we safeguarding passengers when we are not stopping external drivers from picking up our local residents, drivers from as far as Sheffield. If the council really cared about its residents it would only allow users to drop off and any Wolverhampton vehicle would have to wait outside of Redditch		
5	17/10/2024 4:54 PM ID: 255737190	As long as they have a clean license , only requirement should be speaking English, rest is unnecessary paper work , bureaucracy		
6	17/10/2024 5:42 PM ID: 255744393	I think the idea is awful which is why all drivers have and are considering leaving RBC for wolverhampton		
7	17/10/2024 5:47 PM ID: 255744268	Aot of this training is common sense and I personally believe that the refresher training is not necessary.		
8	19/10/2024 12:37 PM ID: 255885850	There is obviously a problem with certain drivers for the need to suggest the extra training Deal with the bad drivers		
9	09/01/2025 1:20 PM ID: 261677677	Dear Redditch Borough Council, Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed introduction of mandatory safeguarding awareness refresher training for licensed drivers.		

6. If you have any other comments or observations in relation to the proposal please provide these here:

		<p>While I fully support initiatives aimed at protecting children, females, and vulnerable adults, I do not favour this proposal if it involves additional costs for drivers. The cost of living is currently very high, and work within the trade has slowed considerably. Many drivers are already struggling to manage their expenses, and further financial burdens may make it difficult for some to continue working.</p> <p>I would urge the Council to consider either subsidising this training or finding cost-neutral ways to implement it, ensuring drivers are not disproportionately affected.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my views.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>	
10	09/01/2025 3:02 PM ID: 261687799	<p>Safeguarding training is already over subscribed With Redditch Borough Council. How will you accommodate the drivers needs to these courses</p> <p>When existing company who provide specialist transport ie school runs are struggling to get dates for training.</p> <p>These courses are not cheap for the drivers to do.</p> <p>Drivers are already struggling to cope with the cost of living crisis.</p>	
11	09/01/2025 10:16 PM ID: 261718564	<p>I do not agree with a safe guarding training as I have been a licensed taxi driver for over 30+ years with 0 complaints. This is a good for new drivers but is not suitable for drivers who have been in the trade. All experienced drivers understand safeguarding concerns. Also it is not fare to burden drivers with extra costs in a struggling trade.</p>	
		answered	11
		skipped	22

6. About you

7. Which best describes your gender?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male		80.65% 25
2	Female		6.45% 2
3	Prefer to self describe		3.23% 1
4	Prefer not to say		9.68% 3
		answered	31
		skipped	2

7. About you

8. What was your age, in years, on your last birthday?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	16-19 years		0.00% 0





8. What was your age, in years, on your last birthday?				
2	20-29 years		6.25%	2
3	30-39 years		18.75%	6
4	40-49 years		37.50%	12
5	50-59 years		15.63%	5
6	60-69 years		18.75%	6
7	70-79 years		0.00%	0
8	80+ years		0.00%	0
9	Prefer not to say		3.13%	1
			answered	32
			skipped	1

8. About you





9. To which of these groups do you consider you belong?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	White English/Welsh/ Scottish/Northern Irish/British		21.88%	7
2	Any other white background		0.00%	0
3	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups		0.00%	0
4	Asian or Asian British		43.75%	14
5	Arab		0.00%	0
6	Any other ethnic group		0.00%	0
7	Prefer not to say		34.38%	11
			answered	32
			skipped	1

9. About you




10. Which best describes your religion or belief?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Atheist		6.25%	2

10. Which best describes your religion or belief?				
2	Buddhist		0.00%	0
3	Christian		9.38%	3
4	Humanist		0.00%	0
5	Hindu		0.00%	0
6	Jewish		0.00%	0
7	Muslim		56.25%	18
8	Pagan		0.00%	0
9	Sikh		0.00%	0
10	No religion/belief		3.13%	1
11	Prefer not to say		25.00%	8
12	Other (please specify):		0.00%	0
			answered	32
			skipped	1
Other (please specify): (0)				
No answers found.				

10. About you

11. How would you describe your sexual orientation?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Heterosexual		46.88%	15
2	Lesbian or Gay		0.00%	0
3	Bisexual		0.00%	0
4	Prefer to self describe		3.13%	1
5	Prefer not to say		43.75%	14
6	Other (please specify):		6.25%	2
			answered	32
			skipped	1
Other (please specify): (2)				
1	17/10/2024 1:52 PM ID: 255703825	Straight		
2	09/01/2025 12:56 PM ID: 261675327	My		

11. About you

12. Do you have a long standing health issue or disability?(Long-standing means anything that has troubled you over a period of at least 12 months or that is likely to affect you for at least 12 months)				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		3.03%	1
2	No		90.91%	30
3	Prefer not to say		6.06%	2
			answered	33
			skipped	0

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2.9.0 Application Requirements – Applicants Renewing a Licence

- 2.9.1 An applicant seeking to renew a licence to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles must:
- Continue to benefit from the right to work in the United Kingdom (UK)
 - Be deemed by the Council to remain a “fit and proper person” to hold a licence
- 2.9.2 Before a licence to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles can be renewed, the applicant must have submitted all of the following:
- Completed application form
 - A valid DVLA licence check code
 - Application fee
 - A recent passport sized photograph of themselves
- 2.9.3 In addition, any person who has lived outside of the UK for a period of three or more continuous months since their last licence was issued, must provide criminal records information or a “Certificate of Good Character” from each country outside the UK in which they have lived.
- 2.9.4 In addition any person renewing their licence for the first time after they reach the age of 45, 50, 55 or 60, must provide a copy of the Council’s prescribed medical fitness certificate, which has been completed by one of the medical practitioners that the Council has approved for this purpose.
- 2.9.5 Once a licence holder reaches 65 years of age they will be required to provide a copy of the Council’s prescribed medical fitness certificate, which has been completed by one of the medical practitioners that the Council has approved for this purpose on an annual basis.
- 2.9.6 Those applying to renew a licence to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles must demonstrate that they have either obtained the Worcestershire Taxi and Private Hire Competency Certificate or undertaken approved refresher training in disability awareness in the preceding 3 years.
- 2.9.7 With effect from 1st July 2025 each time a licence holder renews their licence they must undertake safeguarding training delivered by the Council’s approved training provider prior to submitting their renewal application.**
- 2.9.8 If an application to renew a licence to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles is received more than 14 days after the previous licence has expired, the applicant will be treated as if they were applying for a licence to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles for the first occasion.
- 2.9.9 Licences to drive hackney carriage and / or private hire vehicles will normally be issued for a period of 3 years and will then expire. Licences of a shorter duration may be issued when the licensing authority thinks it is appropriate in the specific circumstances of the case, or where required (e.g. when the licence holder’s leave to remain in the UK is time-limited).

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

18th March 2025

PRIMATE KEEPER LICENSING

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Stringfellow
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1** The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 were made in March 2024 and are due to take effect from 6 April 2025. The regulations introduce a new licensing regime for those that keep primates in England.
- 1.2** Under these regulations, the Council will be responsible for considering and determining applications for licences as well as undertaking compliance and enforcement activities.
- 1.3** This report has been prepared to provide the Licensing Committee with information on the background and details of the licensing regime that is coming into effect.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS**2.1 Members are asked to:**

- i. Note the contents of the report and the implications of the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 on the Council.**
- ii. Recommend to Council that the fees applicable to Primate Keeper Licence applications are set.**

3. KEY ISSUES**Summary****3.1 BACKGROUND TO THE REGULATIONS**

3.2 The RSPCA estimates that there are up to 5000 primates that are owned privately in Britain. The most commonly kept species are believed to be common marmosets, tamarins and squirrel monkeys.

3.3 Primates are highly intelligent, long-lived animals who form intricate social

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relationships with each other and experience emotions, and suffer, in a similar way to humans. Meeting the complex physical and behavioural needs of these wild animals in captivity is incredibly difficult and even modern zoos and research facilities, with all their resources and expertise, are still trying to overcome serious welfare problems.

- 3.4 Some of the consistent areas of concern for primates kept as pets that can cause serious suffering are:
- Social isolation
 - Early weaning
 - Cramped and inappropriate housing
 - Poor diet
- 3.5 Animal welfare organisations, including the RSPCA and Born Free have campaigned for over 20 years to end the keeping of primates as pets.
- 3.6 At the 2019 general election, the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat manifestos all contained commitments ban the keeping of primates as pets.
- 3.7 Following the Conservative victory at the 2019 general election, a call for evidence was undertaken in which 98.7% of respondents expressed support for a ban on keeping, breeding, acquiring, gifting, selling or otherwise transferring primates, apart from to persons licensed to keep primates to zoo-level standards.
- 3.8 Measures to end the keeping of primates as pets were then included in the DEFRA “Action Plan for Animal Welfare” and formed part of the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill laid before Parliament. However the government took the decision in May 2023 to drop this bill amid concerns about “scope-creep.” The government announced that they would instead bring forward measures contained in the bill individually during the remainder of the Parliament.
- 3.9 In June 2023, DEFRA consulted again on making regulations under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to introduce a licensing regime and high standards of care and welfare for primates kept as pets.
- 3.10 On 5 March 2024, the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 were made under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This is the same primary legislation under which licensing regimes have previously been implemented for those involved in:
- Selling animals as pets
 - Providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs
 - Hiring out horses
 - Breeding dogs
 - Keeping or training animals for exhibition
- 3.11 THE ANIMAL WELFARE (PRIMATE LICENCES) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2024**
- 3.12 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 will come into

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force in two phases on 6 April 2025 and 6 April 2026.

- 3.13 It will become an offence to keep a primate in England without a licence from 6 April 2026. The only exemptions to the requirement to hold a licence will be where the primates concerned are being kept in a licensed zoo or a place specified in a licence under section 2C of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.
- 3.14 Applications for licences can begin to be made from 6 April 2025 onwards. The licensing authority for the purposes of the regulations is the local authority in whose area the premises at which a primate is kept or is to be kept are situated.
- 3.15 An application may not be made by an individual who is under the age of 18 or who is disqualified from keeping primates under any of the following:
- section 34(2) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006
 - section 1 of the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954
 - section 40(1) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006
 - section 33(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
- 3.16 On receipt of an application for a licence, the local authority will be required to arrange for a suitable person to inspect the premises specified in the application to determine whether the licence conditions are likely to be met if the application were to be granted.
- 3.17 Following that inspection, if satisfied that the licence conditions are likely to be met, the local authority must grant the applicant a primate licence with effect from such date as it may determine. If the local authority is not satisfied that the licence conditions are likely to be met, it must refuse the application. Licences will normally be granted for a period of three years and then expire.
- 3.18 The licence conditions that must be met are set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations and will be supported by detailed guidance that will be given by the Secretary of State in accordance with regulation 20. The conditions will set high care and welfare standards similar to those that are required to be met when primates are kept in licensed zoos.
- 3.19 The regulations also contain provisions relating to inspections and enforcement. A local authority that has granted a primate licence may, during the licence period, arrange for a suitable person to inspect the premises specified in the licence to determine whether the licence conditions are being met and must do so at least once in that period unless the licence was granted for a period of less than one year.
- 3.20 It will be an offence for a licence holder to fail to comply with a licence condition. The offence carries a penalty of an unlimited fine. Local authorities will also have the power to serve a “rectification notice” as an alternative to prosecuting a licence holder who fails to comply with a licence condition.
- 3.21 A rectification notice must:

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- state that the local authority considers that the holder of the licence is failing to meet a licence condition, and why;
 - specify the steps that the local authority considers that the holder of the licence needs to take to comply with the licence condition;
 - specify a period not exceeding two years in which those steps are to be taken (“the rectification period”);
- 3.22 Where a rectification notice has been given, the local authority cannot bring proceedings for non-compliance with any of the licence conditions identified in the notice before the end of the rectification period and if the required steps are taken during the rectification period, no proceedings can be brought subsequently for that non-compliance. The local authority may extend the rectification period, and may do so more than once, so long as the rectification period as extended does not exceed two years.
- 3.23 A local authority that has granted a primate licence may also revoke or vary the licence if the local authority is satisfied that the holder of the licence has failed to:
- comply with a licence condition;
 - allow access for an inspection;
 - pay a fee charged; or
 - take the steps specified in the rectification notice.
- 3.24 This reference to varying a primate licence means varying it by:
- reducing the number of any primates of any species that is authorised to be kept under the licence; or
 - removing any species of primate specified in the licence
- 3.26 **PREPARATION AND NEXT STEPS**
- 3.27 Officers are currently preparing for the implementation of the regulations. A dedicated webpage has been created on the Councils website to provide information about the new licensing requirements. The webpage will continue to be developed as further information becomes available. The implementation of the licensing regime will also be publicised with the help of the Council’s Communications Team.
- 3.28 The proposed fees have been calculated. The fees that will be charged for licences are as follows:
- | | |
|--|---------|
| Application for the grant of a licence | £366.00 |
| Application for renewal of a licence | £300.00 |
| Application for variation of a licence | £267.00 |
| Inspections fees | £182.00 |
- 3.29 Back-office systems are also in the process of being updated to enable applications to be logged and processed and to enable licences to be issued.

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- 3.30 Officers are also working to try and gather information and intelligence from relevant professionals and the public in order to try and identify any primates that are being kept in the Council's area and whose keepers will need to apply for a licence.

3.31 CONSULTATION

- 3.32 No consultation is required.

3.33 MONITORING

- 3.34 The Secretary of State may require a local authority to provide any of the following information to the Secretary of State:
- the number of primate licences in force in the authority's area;
 - the number of primates by species in the authority's area kept under primate licences;
 - the level of fees charged by the authority under the regulations;
 - any other information relating to the discharge of the authority's functions under the regulations that the Secretary of State may reasonably require.
- 3.35 The Secretary of State may require any relevant information is provided within such period as they may reasonably require, which must be at least a period of one month from the date on which the information was requested.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Local authorities can charge a fee in respect of any application relating to a primate licence and can also charge a fee in respect of any inspection which it must or may arrange under the regulations. Licence fees should be calculated based on cost recovery and will be reviewed annually to ensure they are set at the right level.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 have been made under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and place powers and responsibilities on the Council in respect of the licensing of those that keep primates in their area.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Failure to implement the new licensing regime correctly would leave mean that the Council is not fulfilling its statutory obligations as the licensing authority for licences issued under the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024.

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- 6.2 Any primate being kept in the Council's area otherwise than in accordance with the prescribed licence conditions, may experience serious suffering as a result.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Michelle James – Interim Principal Licensing Officer
Worcestershire Regulatory Services
E Mail: michelle.james@worcsregservices.gov.uk
Tel : 01562 738058