

Statement of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2021
Driving assessment requirement for new applicants

South Gloucestershire Council was in receipt of a letter from DVSA, dated 31st August 2016, stating that Taxi Driving Assessment provision would be withdrawn on 31st December 2016.

On 8th December 2016, the Regulatory Committee were presented with a report to consider and agree a proposed amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in relation to the requirement for a Taxi Driving Assessment, with the cessation of the DVSA Taxi Driving Assessment on 31st December 2016, and how this affected applicants for new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver's licences.

The reason that this was necessary, is that the requirement to pass a DVSA Taxi Driving Assessment has been stated in this Licensing Authority's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy since 2010, in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers, that all new applicants must pass a Taxi Driving Assessment as a prerequisite to being granted a driver's licence in the South Gloucestershire District.

The DVSA Taxi Driving Assessment, introduced on 1st April 2008, was designed to test the skills required to drive hackney carriage and private hire vehicles safely and included assessment of awareness and anticipation, effective planning relating to road traffic conditions, correct use of speed, passenger safety and comfort, taxi manoeuvres and a special taxi related exercise.

Following initial contact with respective service providers and reviewing the assessment/test criteria set out by each, four service providers/assessors were identified by the Licensing Service and approved by the Regulatory Committee to carry out Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driving Assessments to the same standard of the DVSA Taxi Driving Assessment. This is now set out at section 9.4.1 of the current policy. The four service providers are:

DIAMOND Advanced Motorists (DIA)

Cost to candidate: prices start from, Enhanced - £95, Standard - £85

Coverage: National

Booking: Online platform

Website: [here](#)

Blue Lamp Trust

Cost to candidate: prices start from £87

Coverage: National

Booking: Online platform

Website: [here](#)

Green Penny

Cost to candidate: prices start from, Enhanced - £94.50, Standard - £82

Coverage: National

Booking: Online platform

Website: [here](#)

Department for Environment & Community Services



Drive53

Cost to candidate: prices start from, Enhanced - £100, Standard - £85

Coverage: Local

Booking: Phone booking or e-mail

Website: [here](#)

The Regulatory Committee have been advised that the Licensing Service are conscious that the current service demand for driver applications remains high and does not wish to place further barriers in front of applicants seeking potential employment, therefore four potential service providers/assessors give choice and reduces the risk of significant waiting times.

This Licensing Authority continues to reserve the right to require an existing South Gloucestershire Council licensed driver to take a Taxi Driving Assessment if, with evidence, it becomes necessary for remedial purposes.

The Licensing Authority has been in contact with and agreed partnership working arrangements with the four service providers named above, and new driver applicants in South Gloucestershire continue to be able to book a driving assessment test with their chosen service provider/assessor. Booking arrangements are stated on each respective service provider website, along with contact details should they be required.

Should new applicants wish to clarify or discuss the driving assessment requirements in the current council Statement of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy then please contact the Licensing Service on 01454 868001 or e-mail licensing@southglos.gov.uk.