

APPENDIX 1

Procedure Number:

Policy – Medical Exemption for carriage of assistance dogs

Disabled people including guide dog owners and other blind or partially sighted people have important rights under the Equality Act 2010, which consolidates and replaces previous discrimination legislation. The Act places a duty on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers to carry guide and other assistance dogs at no extra cost. The legislation allows for drivers that cannot carry assistance dogs to carry a certificate of exemption confirming they have permission to refuse on medical grounds. (It is not appropriate to decline to transport an assistance dog on grounds of religion).

Sections 168 to 171 of the Equality Act 2010 deal with the carriage of guide dogs and other assistance dogs and England and Wales. In summary:

- a) Hackney Carriage drivers must (unless they have a medical exemption):
 - carry the assistance dog and allow it to remain with their owner; and
 - not charge extra for carrying an assistance dog.
- b) Private hire vehicle drivers (unless they have a medical exemption):
 - must carry the assistance dog and allow it to remain with their owner;
 - cannot refuse a booking, or to carry out a booking, due to someone having an assistance dog with them; and
 - cannot charge extra for carrying an assistance dog.

Any driver licensed with South Ribble Borough Council who wishes to apply for a medical exemption should follow the procedure set out below:

- i) An applicant must complete the application form for a medical exemption, supplying all relevant information (including that required from a medical professional);
- ii) Any fee to be charged by a medical professional for completion of the appropriate form must be borne by the applicant and not this authority;
- iii) Upon receipt of the completed application, South Ribble Borough Council will consider the request;
- iv) Should the application be granted, the Council will issue a letter / certificate confirming the granting of the exemption and a notice which the driver must display in the vehicle during all his / her working hours;

- v) A granted application will be valid for no longer than a 12 month period, after which time it will expire and a new application will need to be submitted by the driver;
- vi) Drivers whose application for an exemption is refused may appeal to the Magistrates Court against this decision.

This procedure was adopted by General Licensing Committee on XX XXXX 2017

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "A. Glover", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Interim Licensing Manager

XX XXXX 2017