



1 Great Park Drive
Leyland
Preston
Lancashire
PR25 3UN

22nd September 2021

Dear Licencing Committee,

I would like to introduce you to 24x7 Ltd primarily a specialist provider of Home to school transport for children and young adults with Special Educational Needs.

We have been established for over twenty years and have provided hundreds of thousands of high-quality SEN, adult and social care transport journeys in counties across the country and we now aim to provide this service in Lancashire.

We do not intend to trade as a private hire taxi company in South Ribble and will only be using our South Ribble Licences to service SEN school and adult social care transport contracts awarded by Lancashire County Council.

We are based in Leyland and we employ only within Lancashire.

Our business model is to recruit staff (typically semi or fully retired) who require permanent part time work and who can commit to provide children and young adults with SEN transport during term time. The majority of the vehicles we provide are brand new and are replaced every six months or less. When we are awarded a contract, we assign a dedicated driver and vehicle to that contract to ensure the children and young adults receive a consistent transport provision, something that is essential when delivering SEN transport. The vehicle is used for no other purpose but to service the individual contract.

Our drivers will struggle to pass the local area knowledge test as our contracts are county wide and not just specific to South Ribble.

With the above in mind, we would like to request a conditional licence with the following dispensation from South Ribble Borough Council taxi licencing rules:

The requirement for a driver to take a knowledge test.

We will be operating on a fixed route determined by the Lancashire County Council contract. The driver will only operate on this fixed route and will perform no other work.

We have had our Operator's licence with South Ribble since June 2020 and To date we have been unable to obtain South Ribble Borough Council taxi driver licences.

As an interim measure we have been licensing our vehicles and drivers at our headquarters licencing district in Uttlesford Essex, but this will naturally stop as soon as we are able to licence both vehicles and drivers in South Ribble . We would be able to do this immediately if the requirement for the knowledge test was removed. With the imposition of further Covid restrictions we would respectfully suggest the knowledge test in its present form and going forward is impractical. We would prefer to licence within the District as this keeps enforcement and employment local.

Yours faithfully,
Kristina Walls
Area Business Director, Lancashire