

6.9 Vehicle Age Limits

The Council operates an age policy in respect of licensed vehicles and since its introduction, the travelling public of South Ribble have benefitted from more reliable vehicles which are fitted with better safety features and are more environmentally friendly.

The Council will where appropriate, issue Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicle Licences to vehicles which:

- a) Are no older than 4 years, when first presented for licensing*
- b) In respect of vehicles with a Euro Rating 6 for diesel and petrol fuelled vehicles or Hybrid and electric vehicles are no older than 6 years, when first presented for licensing.*

Vehicles in (a) above, which have been continuously licenced by South Ribble, will no longer be eligible for renewal once they are 8 years old.

Vehicles in (b) above, which have been continuously licenced by South Ribble, will no longer be eligible for renewal once they are 12 years old

In order to ensure that the Council does not fetter its discretion, a vehicle proprietor retains the right to apply to licence a vehicle which falls outside the Council's age criteria.

Any vehicle current performing special needs school transport may be granted the exemption from being categorised into (a) where its euro rating does not comply with euro 6. Thus, these types of vehicle will fall into category (b) at the discretion of the licensing manager upon assessment of the vehicle by officers.

All such applications will be referred to the next scheduled General Licensing Committee for consideration.

The Committee will take into account factors including, but not restricted to:

- *The make and model of the vehicle*
- *The exceptional condition of the vehicle, including the bodywork and interior passenger accommodation*
- *The mileage*
- *The service history*
- *Details of all repairs undertaken throughout the vehicle's life*
- *Details of all replacement parts fitted throughout the vehicle's life*
- *Whether any particular contracts rely on the specific use of the vehicle.*

The Committee will not take into account the personal or financial circumstances of a proprietor when considering a departure from this policy

Each case will be determined on its own individual merits and any departures from this policy will be in exceptional circumstances only and will be recorded along with the reasons such a departure. Any departure from the policy will not create a precedent for future decisions.

Determination of the number of passengers which the vehicle will be licensed to carry will be the responsibility of the Licensing Officer on presentation of the vehicle at first inspection.