

**PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE SPECIFICATION FOR
VEHICLES WITH MORE THAN 4 PASSENGER SEATS**

GENERAL NOTES:

The licensing of any vehicle will be dependant upon the Council being satisfied that the vehicle is suitable in size, type and design for use as a private hire vehicle. The prime consideration of the Council is the safety and comfort of the travelling public.

Before being mechanically inspected for licensing as a private hire vehicle, an appointment must be made at the Licensing Office for a preliminary inspection of the vehicle to ascertain whether it complies with the requirements laid out below. The vehicle proprietor will attend for this preliminary inspection as instructed by Licensing Officers.

Following this preliminary inspection of the vehicle a report will be prepared for the Director of Corporate and Customer Services who in consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman of the Council's Licensing Committee will determine whether the vehicle should be licensed as a private hire vehicle and whether any special conditions should apply.

The number of passengers which the vehicle is licensed to carry will in all cases be subject to the discretion of the Council.

REQUIREMENTS:

Any vehicle which fails to meet the requirements set out at 1 to 17 below will be refused a licence.

1. The vehicles must be right hand drive.
2. The engine capacity must be no less than 1800 cc.
3. The vehicle must have at least 4 doors and an alternative means of exit from the vehicle in an emergency. The emergency exit must not be situated on the offside of the vehicle. All doors must afford sufficient access to and from the vehicle and must be capable of locking in a fixed position when opened.
4. The main passenger entrance to the vehicle shall be equipped with a step light which operates at all times when the entrance is opened or when the vehicle lights are on, or alternatively the vehicle shall have suitable internal lighting which illuminates the main passenger entrance when the doors are opened.
5. The interior floor surface of the vehicle must be fitted with a non-slip covering and any steps to the vehicle must be fitted with anti-slip tread.
6. Access from the doors to the seats (and vice-versa) must be direct without the need for passengers to climb over seats or parts of seats (see note (i) below).

7. All seats must be forward facing and adequate in size, shape and condition for passengers (see note (ii) below).
8. The vehicle shall be equipped at all times with seat belts of an acceptable type in respect of every seat which can be used for the carriage of passengers. Seat belts must comply with current legislation and be maintained in proper working order at all times.
9. There must be adequate, secure storage space for all passengers luggage preferably within the vehicle. The arrangements for storing luggage must not obstruct access to the vehicle exits or affect passenger comfort.
10. If when the vehicle is fully occupied there is insufficient space within the vehicle for storage of luggage then a roof rack may be fitted providing the luggage is stored in a purpose built luggage carrier and the vehicle has a maximum roof load (as recommended by the vehicle manufacturers) equivalent to 12.5kg (28 lbs) per passenger.
11. The manufacturers gross vehicle weight for the tyres and suspension actually fitted to the vehicle must be sufficient for a minimum payload equal to the driver, the number of passengers for which the vehicle licence is requested (at 70kg [154 lbs] per person), a full tank of fuel and luggage (at 16kg [36 lbs] per passenger).
12. The vehicle must have at least 4 road wheels and carry at least 1 spare wheel, a jack and brace all securely stored in a position not liable to damage passengers' luggage. The spare wheel must be of the same type as the 4 road wheels.
13. The 4 road wheels shall be fitted with wheel trims of a similar pattern.
14. The vehicle must be equipped with an internal rear view mirror and nearside and offside exterior rear view mirrors.
15. The vehicle must be as originally constructed as per the Manufacturers Specification and comply in all respects with the Motor Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, as amended, and all other relevant legislation.
16. The vehicle must comply with the Council's Testing Requirements and satisfy the Council as to its fitness for use as a private hire vehicle upon full examination and testing to the standards of the Council's private hire vehicle test.
17. The vehicle must at all times comply with Knowsley MBC's private hire vehicle licence conditions.

Additional Notes

- (i) Where access to doors requires moving the seat in front then providing this is a straightforward and quick operation in line with manufacturers recommendations the vehicle may still be considered for licensing.
- (ii) Where an alternative seating arrangement is recommended by the vehicle manufacturer then providing the Council is satisfied that this does not affect the safety of the passengers the vehicle may still be considered for licensing.

Notwithstanding the above the Council reserves the right to take into account any other relevant considerations when determining whether to grant a private hire vehicle licence to carry more than 4 passengers. The Council may also insist on suitable modifications being made to a vehicle providing that such modifications would not affect the vehicle manufacturers warranty.

MINIBUSES/MULTI PURPOSE VEHICLES (MPVs)

If the application is in respect of a Minibus or MPV type vehicle then the following dimensions are recommended (these are minimum dimensions unless otherwise stated):

A - Wheelbase	2690 mm (106")
B - Door Aperture (width)	990 mm (39")
C - Door Aperture (height)	1140 mm (45")
D - Maximum step height	460 mm (18")
E - Overall length	4270 mm (168")
F - Overall width	1730 mm (68")
G - Emergency Exit (width)	1220 mm (48")
H - Emergency Exit (height)	1220 mm (48")
I - Height from floor to roof	1320 mm (52")
J - Width from window to window	1525 mm (60")
K -Distance between seats	230 mm (9")
L - Seat width	405 mm (16")

These dimensions are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 (attached).

Any minibus or MPV type vehicle which meets specifications 1 to 17 above but fails to comply with the dimensions above may, subject to the discretion of the Council, still be licensed as a private hire vehicle subject to special conditions. In such circumstances it is probable that the Council will limit the number of passengers which the vehicle is licensed to carry.

FIGURE 1 MINIBUS/MPV DIMENSIONS

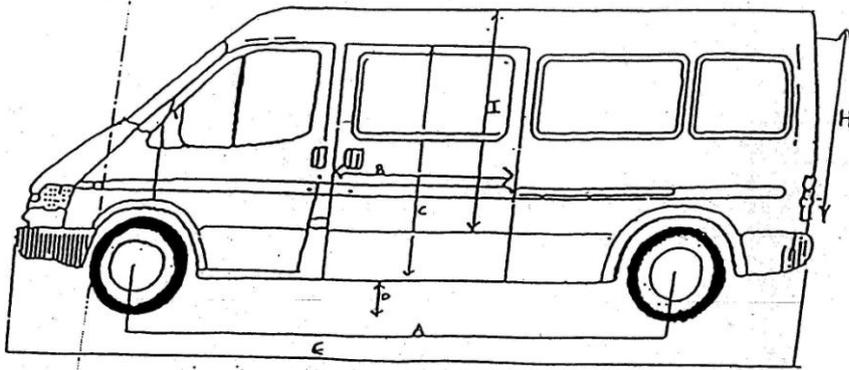


FIGURE 2

