

APPENDIX 1

The current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (the Policy) was revised on 8 June 2021 and continues to be effective in ensuring safety for the travelling public using hackney carriage (HC) and private hire vehicles (PHV) licensed by Broxtowe Borough Council.

Currently the policy makes no mention of vehicles which have been written off by Insurance Companies.

A 'write-off' is how insurance companies describe vehicles that are too badly damaged, or simply uneconomical to repair.

The system insurers use to classify write-offs changed on 1 October 2017. Previously write-offs were grouped into four categories: A, B, C and D. These were graded in order of severity, with Category A for irreparable damage and Category D for vehicles that could – potentially – be returned to the road.

The new system substitutes C and D for the new categories of S and N, ranking write-offs as follows:

A - Scrap only

B - Break for parts

S - Structurally damaged but repairable

N - Not structurally damaged, repairable

Category A covers vehicles that are only fit to be crushed, such as those burnt-out by fire

Category B vehicles have sustained serious damage, but certain parts will be salvageable; the engine from a car in a rear-end shunt, for example. Once these parts have been removed, the car will be destroyed.

Category S means the vehicle has suffered structural damage. This could include a bent or twisted chassis, or a crumple zone that has collapsed in a crash. Category S damage is more than just cosmetic, therefore, and the vehicle will need to be professionally repaired. Also, it won't be safe to drive until then.

Category N. Vehicles graded accordingly haven't sustained structural damage, so the issue may be cosmetic, or a problem with the electrics that isn't economical to repair. It should not be assumed that such vehicles are drivable as non-structural faults may include brakes, steering or other safety-related parts.

The Council's policy states "It is important that hackney carriage and private hire vehicles meet regulatory standards and are able to convey passengers safely and comfortably, ensuring that the customer experience is a positive one"

It is thought appropriate that in order to comply with the policy statement, no HC or PHV's that have been categorised in any category of write-off should be licensed by the Council.

Proposed Amendment

It is therefore proposed to amend paragraph 6.1 of the current policy to add the information in bold below.

6.1 Application Process

The Council will consider all applications for vehicle licences on their own merits.

However, any vehicle that is to be licensed as a HC/PHV must not have any damage affecting the safety of the vehicle. Any vehicle that is written off for insurance purposes will not be licensed, regardless of category. Applicants are advised that before purchasing a vehicle, it is thoroughly inspected by a competent person and that a full HPI check is carried out on the vehicle.

The procedure for dealing with applications for private hire and hackney carriage vehicles is set out in Appendix G.