

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001661
Date 7 November 2017

Refused Taxi Licenses

Request:

I would appreciate it if you were able to provide the following information relating to Taxi Licensing under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

- 1) Please state the most recent figures held within your local authority licensing area for:
 - Total number of Private Hire Drivers Licenses. **7573 (161 dual badges for both private hire and hackney carriage)**
 - Total number of Private Hire Vehicle Licenses. **5114**
 - Total number of Hackney Carriage Driver Licenses. **123**
 - Total number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licenses. **184**
 - Total number of Private Hire Operator Licenses. **83**

- 2) Please state the total number of taxi drivers and operators currently licensed in your authority area that have been REFUSED a licence by another local authority. In each case, please provide details of the local authorities that refused them. Please break this down in to: Private Hire Drivers, Hackney Carriage Drivers, and Private Hire Operators.
[Your question for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.](#)

[Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information \(because the information is exempt\) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:](#)

- [\(a\) states the fact,](#)
- [\(b\) specifies the exemption in question and](#)
- [\(c\) states \(if that would not otherwise be apparent\) why the exemption applies:](#)

[In relation to your particular question, the following exemption applies:](#)

[Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit](#)

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
 - (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
 - (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.

The information appertaining to your question is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on. To get the information would require a full scale look into all individual records. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the information would be in excess of 18 hours (equivalent to a notional cost of £450).

- 3) Please state the total number of taxi drivers and operators currently licensed in your authority area that have had licenses REVOKED or SUSPENDED by other local authorities. In each case, please provide details of the councils that carried out these sanctions. Please break this down in to: Private Hire Drivers, Hackney Carriage Drivers, and Private Hire Operators. Please also provide details of sanctions enforced where relevant.
As above.

- 4) Please state the total costs to an individual of applying for a new Hackney Carriage Driver and Private Hire Driver's Licence in your local authority area. Please include costs of application fees, licence fees, test fees, essential equipment and any other relevant costs.
*Application fee, payable to City of Wolverhampton Council - £77.00
Medical certificate, payable to a medical practitioner – Various
Assessment fee, payable to Worcestershire County Council
DBS Check & DVLA check, payable to Personnel Checks - £83.00 +
verification check at the post office.*