



## **CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **POLICY FOR EXEMPTION FROM DISPLAY OF LICENCE PLATES IN RESPECT OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to set out how the Council will deal with requests for exemptions from the display of licence plates in respect of private hire vehicles.

#### **2. GENERAL POLICY**

- 2.1 Where a private hire vehicle licence is issued under section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 [LGMP76] the Council, which issued the licence may, by giving a written notice to the proprietor of the vehicle, exempt that vehicle from the display of any licence plate.
- 2.2 Private hire vehicles may be used for a diverse range of purposes including late night transport of customers from town centres, transport of vulnerable persons and the transport of goods. Private hire operators offering services such as transporting wedding guests, mourners at funerals, business executives or offering uniformed chauffeur type services would generally seek to use more expensive 'prestige top of range' vehicles for this purpose.
- 2.3 The main purpose of the licensing regime is to ensure the safety of the fare paying public and as such licence plates are a clear indicator to the public that the vehicle and driver comply with a range of requirements and standards imposed by the licensing authority to ensure their safety. Any exemption from the display of such plates must be given very careful consideration and an exemption will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.

- 2.4 The Council will determine each request for exemption on its merits, but will place public safety above all other considerations. Exemptions will only be granted where the operator can clearly demonstrate a need due to the nature of their work and that the vehicle is in immaculate condition, of a superior standard and affords a high level of comfort and facilities for passengers.
- 2.5 Requests must be submitted on a form provided by the Council for the purpose and must be accompanied by any requisite documentation or information which will include the following:
- (a) Reasons as to why an exemption is being requested
  - (b) Evidence to support the nature and volume of work that necessitates such an exemption.
  - (c) Any information such as advertising, web sites, business correspondence that supports the nature of work commonly undertaken by the operator
  - (d) Details of the vehicle to include make, model, interior finishes. (The vehicle must be made available at a pre-determined time and place in order that it can be inspected.)
  - (e) Any additional features available in the vehicle such as conference seating, wi-fi, air conditioning, provision of refreshments, dvd facilities, etc.
  - (f) If offering uniformed chauffeur services the type of uniform that is to be worn.
  - (g) Whether or not exemption is required from the Council's vehicle standard in respect of darkly tinted windows to protect the privacy of particular types of clients.
- 2.6 Where an exemption is granted its validity shall be concurrent with the vehicle licence. The notice of exemption and licence plates must be carried in the vehicle at all times and made available at any time for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council or the police.
- 2.7 A discrete notice of exemption will be provided by the Council's licensing section. This notice must be displayed in the bottom left hand corner of the windscreen at all times that the exemption is valid. The discrete notice will be time limited and be concurrent with the vehicle licence.