

MAIDSTONE PH OPERATORS PROPOSAL

October 2021

PROPOSAL FOR AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO OBTAIN A PRIVATE HIRE BADGE IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

Proposal written by Express Cabs & Couriers Ltd on behalf of Maidstone private hire operators

The Background

Express Cabs runs a training school to try and assist new applicants in becoming a licensed driver in the borough of Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling, Medway or Ashford. This school is run by Jason Brown (Licensed with Tonbridge & Malling as a dual driver & Maidstone as a private hire driver) & Jade Collier (A licensed Maidstone private hire driver)

This proposal has come around due to the errors found in the Maidstone knowledge test. We have previously highlighted many errors within the policy & test.

Project Scope

The alternative solution would be for a new applicant to have two choices of obtaining a private hire badge.

Option one would be the same as it currently is.

Option two would be the following.

- *Applicant must have a Full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year*
- *Applicant must contact Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) or operator for application*
- *Applicant must have an enhanced DBS certificate*
- *Applicant must have a medical*
- *Applicant must have passed a DSA driver's test*
- *Applicant must sit independent training for EQUO, Council policy & highway code*

Once all completed the applicant would then obtain a 12-month probational badge

Within these 12 months the driver must pass the MBC knowledge test

High-Level requirements

The alternative solution would include the following.

Enhanced criminal record check which will reveal spent and unspent convictions, plus whether the subject is on the DBS lists of people barred from working with children and/or vulnerable adults. Enhanced Disclosures may also provide non-conviction intelligence held by the police and which they feel is relevant to the role (based on the Role Description submitted on the application).

Enhanced Disclosures can be requested for a specified list of roles in the Exceptions Order plus roles that involve caring for, training, teaching or otherwise being in sole charge of children or vulnerable adults; or regularly working on sites where children or vulnerable adults will be present, i.e. giving the jobholder extended access to these vulnerable groups.

Taxi/private hire medical, applicant would be required to take A printed copy of your summary medical records from your GP surgery, Details of medications - if you take any, we need the names and dosages, Driving glasses - you must remove contact lenses for the examination & Optical prescription - If you wear glasses for driving you must also bring your optical prescription so our Doctor can record the strength of your lenses

DSA Driver assessment A taxi driver assessment provides proof of your driving ability and is required by most local authorities for taxi licensing

Training for EQUO, council policy & highway code. Independent full training rather than a test for the EQUO test. Discuss key points of the council policies & training with the most up to date highway code.

Deliverables

Enhanced criminal record check: Local authority or in house checks (Both currently acceptable by MBC)

Taxi/ Private hire medical: D4Drivers.co.uk, PHC Occupational health or own GP (All currently acceptable by MBC)

DSA Driver assessment: Blue Lamp trust or green penny (Both currently acceptable by MBC)

Training for EQUO, council policy & highway code: Timothy Griffiths fully certified teacher/ trainer who works, trains with Kent County Council.

Current full EQUO test explained in full to applicant and attendance to pass it

Main points from the MBC policy including all compulsory questions, explaining the difference between PH & Hackney drivers, explain plying for hire and advise applicants of the importance of contacting licencing if any convictions or medical issues.

Current highway code questions and road sign training

This would be a one-day course.

Implementation Plan

Enhanced criminal record check, Medical and DSA test would stay the same as before.

The training plan will be conducted by TGTraining - <https://tgtraining.wixsite.com/training>

Express Cabs & other MBC, TMBC operators often use the services of TGTraining for wheelchair accessible assessments, CPC & other training courses they offer.

Mr Timothy Griffiths of TGTraining has the following qualifications.

- *Approved driving instructor (ADI)*
- *First aid trainer*
- *City and guilds 7307 adult teaching qualification*
- *D32/33 assessors qualification.*

One day course

Morning session would focus on

- *Disability Awareness training (Equo)*
 - *Discrimination*
 - *The equality act 2010*
 - *Direct disability discrimination*
 - *Discrimination arising from disability*
 - *Indirect disability discrimination*
 - *Models of disability*
 - *Positive language*
 - *Facts & figures about disability*
 - *Visual Impairment*
 - *Mobility Impairment*
 - *Hearing impairments*
 - *Disfigurement*
 - *Speech & Language impairments*
 - *Learning disabilities*
 - *Mental Health*
 - *Assistance dogs*
 - *Safe transportation of wheelchairs*
- *Child Sexual Exploitation (Equo)*
 - *What is abuse*
 - *What is a child*
 - *What is child sexual exploitation*
 - *Indicators of risk and who is at risk*
 - *Who is at risk?*
 - *Who are the offenders?*
 - *Where does child sexual exploitation take place?*
 - *How are young people targeted?*
 - *Signs that you can look out for*
 - *The modern slavery act 2015*
 - *What can you do to help*
 - *How to report your concerns*

- *Safeguarding (Equo)*
 - *What is safeguarding*
 - *Good safeguarding practice*
 - *How to report your concerns*
 - *Record keeping*
- *County lines (Equo)*
 - *What is county lines?*
 - *Exploitation of young and vulnerable people*
 - *Is this happening in Kent?*
 - *How are the police dealing with County lines?*
 - *Courier fraud*
 - *Explain 'I am nine, nine'*
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- *Companies own safeguarding and reporting procedure*

Afternoon Session

- *Points from MBC PH Policy to include*
 - *All compulsory questions from the MBC PH Test*
 - *Plying for hire*
 - *Difference between PH & HCV*
 - *Dress Code*
 - *Reporting criminal & motoring offences to MBC*
 - *Reporting new medical conditions to MBC*
 - *Copy of MBC policy issued to candidate*
- *Latest Highway code & road sign training*

In review

We believe this alternative option will improve the original format set out by MBC. This option will give the new applicants full training and support throughout. The benefits of this will lead to long term quality and knowledgeable applicants.

*Many of our drivers also have bus licences, all bus drivers are required to sit 35 hours of training over 5 years (CPC). **There is no test!** The 35 hours is used for learning and understanding. Making the EQUO a test is not providing the applicants with the understanding and importance of safeguarding, disability awareness & county lines. We believe this should be taught rather than a formal exam.*