

Taxi licensing driver suitability consultation

Open date: 27 January 2025 Close date: 9 March 2025

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Overview

We want to hear the views of the public, our licensees, and other partners on potential changes to the Buckinghamshire Council hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy concerning driver suitability.

We introduced the first hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy for Buckinghamshire in September 2021. The policy sets out how we regulate taxis (hackney carriage vehicles) and minicabs (private hire vehicles) across Buckinghamshire (excluding Milton Keynes).

The current hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy (Buckinghamshire Council website)

In 2024, we reviewed this policy following publication of the new Department for Transport best practice guidance on taxi licensing. As part of this review we consulted the public and our partners on possible policy changes between 16 September and 24 November 2024.

However, in this previous review and consultation we did not address our policy concerning applicants with criminal or unacceptable behaviour histories (Appendix 4 of the current policy). This was because we were waiting for the publication of the Institute of Licensing's revised guidance on this policy area. This revised Suitability Guidance was published in November 2024.

Why we want to hear from you

Although it isn't a legal requirement to follow the Institute of Licensing Suitability Guidance, it does represent current national best practice in this important policy area, which is why we rely on it to inform our own policy on driver suitability.

Now the Suitability Guidance has been revised, we are now seeking your opinion on possible revisions to our policy that would reflect the changes in the revised version of the guidance.

Summary of changes in the revised Suitability Guidance

The new guidance is broadly similar to the original version published in 2018 but provides a more comprehensive and detailed framework for ensuring public safety and safeguarding, with an expanded focus on various categories of offences and non-criminal behaviour.

The categories of offences have been expanded to include new categories such as 'discrimination' and 'alcohol misuse or dependency'. Existing categories like 'exploitation' and 'offences involving violence' have been expanded to cover a broader range of behaviours.

The new guidance maintains the time periods which must elapse before a licence will be granted for various offences but provides more detailed explanations and justifications. For example, a ten-year period for offences involving violence, a seven-year period for dishonesty, and a five-year period for drug possession. There have been some changes to the proposed approach to considering motoring offences.

The new guidance includes a section on non-criminal behaviours that could be a potential cause for concern. This includes behaviours such as inappropriate physical contact, asking personal questions, and other predatory behaviours.

What we are asking

We want to hear your views on the following areas of driver suitability policy:

- licensing people with criminal convictions
- licensing in relation to drug-related offences and dependency
- licensing and motoring offences
- licensing where there has been regulatory non-compliance

licensing and unacceptable behaviour

All questions on the policy are optional, so you can skip any section you don't want to answer.

Related documents and links

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the following documents and links available at yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com:

- Revised Suitability Guidance (Institute of Licensing website)
- Our current policy on criminal convictions and unacceptable behaviour (Buckinghamshire Council website)
- Report to the Buckinghamshire Council Licensing Committee (PDF 0.3MB)

How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com
- print, complete, and return the printed version of the survey below
- email us at taxilicensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- write to us at Taxi Licensing, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8FF

If you have any questions about this activity, or require this information in another format or language, please email us at taxilicensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or phone us on 01296 585605.

Please tell us your views by 11:59pm on 9 March 2025.

What happens next

Once the consultation has closed, we will review the responses we have received.

We will then bring these responses together with the responses to our earlier taxi licensing consultation (16 September to 24 November 2024) and develop a draft revision of the entire taxi licensing policy.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our <u>privacy policy</u>.

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Taxi licensing driver suitability consultation survey

Criminal offences

A taxi or private hire driver is directly responsible for the safety of their passengers and other road users. They are also in a position of significant control over their passengers, who may be alone or vulnerable.

This means that any criminal convictions will weigh heavily against a licence being granted or retained.

Reference to convictions for offences within the guidance and our policy also include matters that amount to criminal behaviour, but which have not resulted in a conviction.

In relation to many single convictions, a licence will only be granted after a given period has elapsed following completion of any sentence (or the date of conviction if a fine was imposed).

Except for minor motoring offences, the timescales mentioned do only refer to a single offence. Applicants and licence holders with multiple offences can expect to face stricter consequences.

It is important that the timescales referred to are seen as a guide, so that applicants, decision makers and the public have a clear understanding of how applications that indicate a history of criminal or unacceptable behaviour can expect to be treated. However, while these policies provide clear guidelines,

they do not remove the discretion of the Council to consider exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Whilst there is an emphasis on drivers within the guidance, the same policy approach is expected to be taken when considering licensing arrangements for vehicle owners and private hire operators, with the exception of motoring offences in respect of private hire operators.

Where the guidance or policy refers to an applicant, the same policy approach will apply to existing licence holders, whether licence holders are specifically mentioned or not.

1. A barred list is a register of individuals who are prohibited from working with children or vulnerable adults. In the UK, there are two main barred lists, the Children's Barred List and the Adults' Barred list, which are maintained by the government's Disclosure and Barring Service.

Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that a licence will not be granted to a person on a barred list.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should refuse a licence to a

person on a barred list?	
Please tick (✓) one option	
☐ Strongly agree	
☐ Agree	
☐ Neither agree nor disagree	
☐ Disagree	
☐ Strongly disagree	
☐ I don't know	
Please give the reasons for your answer	

2. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that where an applicant or licensee has been convicted of a crime which resulted in the death of another person or was intended to cause the death or serious injury of another person they will not be licensed.

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To what extent do you agree of along rec that the should permanently relace
a licence to a person convicted of a crime which resulted in the death of another person or was intended to cause the death or serious injury of
another person?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
☐ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer

3. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that where an applicant or licensee has been convicted of a crime involving, related to, or connected with the abuse, exploitation, use or treatment of another individual irrespective of whether the victim or victims were adults or children, they will not be licensed. This includes slavery, child sexual exploitation, grooming, psychological, emotional or financial abuse, but this is not an exhaustive list.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should permanently refuse a licence to a person who has been convicted of a crime involving or related to the abuse, exploitation, use or treatment of another individual? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree □ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer
4. The new Suitability Guidance additionally states that where an applicant or licensee has been convicted of a crime involving, related to, or connected to criminal harassment they will not be licensed. This includes stalking without violence.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should permanently refuse a licence to a person convicted of a crime involving or related to criminal harassment, including non-violent stalking? Please tick (✓) one option Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree I don't know

Please give the reasons for your answer
5. Both our current policy and new Suitability Guidance state that where an applicant has a conviction for an offence of violence, or connected with any offence of violence, a licence will not be granted until at least 10 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence they served.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that, where a person has a conviction for an offence of violence or is connected with any offence of violence, we should not grant them a licence until 10 years have elapsed
since the completion of any sentence they served?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
□ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
☐ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer

6. The new Suitability Guidance states that where the offence of violence was committed against a child or vulnerable adult a licence will never be granted.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should permanently refuse

a licence to a person convicted of an offence of violence against a child or vulnerable adult? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree □ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer

7. The new Suitability Guidance states that violence includes situations where the victim is put in fear, alarm or distress without any physical contact. It is accepted that this concept of 'violence' is wide, but any such behaviour will be of concern. Offences could involve violence against persons, property, animals or the state. The guidance does not differentiate between different levels of violence. It will be for the licensing authority to determine whether there is any justification for changing the delay period before a licence will be issued, depending on the facts of a particular case.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should expand the definition of violence in our licensing policy to include situations where the victim is put in fear, alarm or distress without any physical contact? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree □ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer
8. The new Suitability Guidance states that where an applicant has a conviction for a public order offence or similar that is not in itself an act of violence, a licence will not be granted for a period of five years.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that where a person has a conviction for a public order offence or similar that is not in itself an act of violence, we should not grant a licence until five years have elapsed since their conviction?
Please tick (✓) one option ☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
☐ I don't know

Please give the reasons for your answer
9. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that where an applicant has a conviction for possession of a weapon or any other weapon related offence, a licence will not be granted until at least seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that where a person has a conviction for possession of a weapon or any other weapon-related offence, we should not grant them a licence until seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence they served?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
□ Strongly disagree □ I don't know
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Please give the reasons for your answer

10. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that where an applicant has a conviction for any offence involving or connected with illegal sexual activity or any form of indecency, a licence will not be granted.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should permanently refuse a licence to a person has a conviction for any offence involving or connected with illegal sexual activity or any form of indecency? Please tick (✓) one option ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ I don't know Please give the reasons for your answer 11. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that the licensing authority will not grant a licence to any applicant who is currently on the Sex Offenders Register. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should refuse a licence to a person on the Sex Offenders' Register? Please tick (\checkmark) one option ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither agree nor disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ I don't know

Please give the reasons for your answer	
12. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that where an applicant has a conviction for any offence of dishonesty, or any offence where dishonesty is an element of the offence, a licence will not be granted	
until at least seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.	
To what extent do you agree or disagree that if a person has a conviction for any offence of dishonesty, or any offence where dishonesty is an element of the offence, we should not grant them a licence until seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence they served?	
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elapsed since the completion of any sentence they served? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree □ I don't know	

13. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state where an applicant has a conviction involving or connected with discrimination in any form, a licence will not be granted until at least seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that where a person has a

conviction involving or connected with discrimination in any form, we should
not grant them a licence until seven years have elapsed since the completion
of any sentence they served?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
☐ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer

14. The new Suitability Guidance has included non-compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 in the definition of discrimination offences. This would include refusal to carry assistance dogs or to provide mobility assistance.

To what extent do you agree or alsagree that we should melade hon
compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 when considering if someone has
committed an offence of discrimination?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
☐ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should include non-

Drug-related offences

Offences relating to controlled drugs not only involve criminal behaviour, but substance misuse and dependency have serious implications for whether the person is a safe and suitable person to hold a licence.

15. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that where an applicant has any conviction for, or related to, the supply of drugs, or possession with intent to supply or connected with possession with intent to supply, a licence will not be granted until at least 10 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed. The new Guidance has added to this list convictions for, or related to, the production, import, or trade in drugs.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that that where a person has any conviction related to the supply of drugs or possession with intent to supply, we should not grant a licence until 10 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence served? Please tick (✓) one option Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer
16. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state where an applicant has a conviction for possession of drugs, or related to the possession of drugs, a licence will not be granted until at least 5 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed. In these circumstances, any applicant will also have to undergo drugs testing at their own expense to demonstrate that they are not using controlled drugs.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that where a person has a conviction related to the possession of drugs, we should not grant a licence until at least five years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence they served? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree
□ I don't know

Please give the reasons for your answer	
17. Our current policy states that the Council may require applicants or drivers to be tested for the unlawful use of drugs where there are concerns. If they have a drug-related conviction, the testing and assessment will be at the driver's expense. The new Suitability Guidance states that if there are indications that an applicant or licensee has had a history of, or a medical problem associated with, the abuse of or dependence of illegal drugs, the applicant will also be	
subject to additional medical testing/assessment before the application is considered. If the applicant was found to be dependent on drugs, a licence will not be granted unless at least five years have elapsed since the dependency ceased.	
To what extent do you agree or disagree that if there are indications that a person has a history of, or a medical problem associated with, the abuse of or dependence on illegal drugs, we should require medical testing and assessment before a licence application is considered? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree	
□ Neither agree nor disagree□ Disagree□ Strongly disagree□ I don't know	

Please give the reasons for your answer
Motoring offences
The Suitability Guidance emphasises that any motoring conviction can indicate a lack of professionalism in someone charged with the responsibility of safely carrying the public.
Although a single occurrence of a minor traffic offence may not prohibit the grant of a licence or result in action against an existing licence, subsequent convictions suggest that the person may not be a safe and suitable person to hold a licence.
18. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state where an applicant has a conviction for drink driving or driving under the influence of drugs, a licence will not be granted until at least seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence or driving ban imposed. With drug offences, any applicant will also have to undergo drugs testing at their own expense to demonstrate that they are not using controlled drugs (see the section of this survey on drug-related offences).
To what extent do you agree or disagree that that where a person has a conviction for drink driving or driving under the influence of drugs, we should not grant them a licence until seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence or driving ban that was imposed?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
□ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
☐ I don't know

Please give the reasons for your answer
19. The new Suitability Guidance has added that where an applicant has failed to provide a specimen in relation to a driving matter, a licence will not be granted until at least seven years have elapsed.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that that where a person fails to provide a specimen in relation to a driving matter, we should not grant them a licence until seven years have elapsed?
Please tick (✓) one option
□ Strongly agree □ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
☐ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer

20. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state where an applicant has a conviction for using a hand-held mobile telephone or a hand-held device whilst driving, a licence will not be granted until at least five years have elapsed since the conviction or completion of any disqualification imposed, whichever is the later.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that that where a person has a

conviction for using a hand-held mobile telephone or a hand-held device whilst driving, we should not grant them a licence until five years have elapsed since the conviction or completion of any disqualification imposed, whichever is the later?

Please tick (✓) one option

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

I don't know

21. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that if a person has committed any motoring offence which resulted in injury to any person or damage to any property (including vehicles), then a licence will not be granted until at least seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that that where a person has committed any motoring offence which resulted in injury to any person or damage to any property, we should not grant them a licence until seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence they served? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree □ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer
22. Both our current policy and the new Suitability Guidance state that if a person has committed any offence relating to vehicle insurance, then a licence will not be granted until at least seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that that where a person has committed any vehicle insurance offence, we should not grant them a licence until seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence they served?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree ☐ Neither agree per disagree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
□ I don't know

Please give the reasons for your answer

23. Penalty points applied to a DVLA driving licence remain active for either three or 10 years, which may be either from the date of the offence or the date of conviction depending upon the offence as detailed in Penalty points (endorsements). They may be removed from the licence after four or 11 years.

Our current policy states that where a driver has seven or more points on their DVLA licence for minor traffic or similar offences, a licence will not be granted until at least five years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed. A minor traffic or vehicle related offence is defined under the policy as one which does not involve loss of life, driving under the influence of drink or drugs, driving whilst using a mobile phone, driving without insurance or connected with motor insurance and has not resulted in injury to any person or damage to any property (including vehicles).

The new Guidance proposes an alternate approach and that the authority should assess the suitability of drivers who have attained seven or more DVLA points. As part of that assessment drivers should be required to undertake and/or pass a driver assessment within two months of notice by the authority that they are considering the suitability of the licence holder.

Should the driver fail to meet this requirement then they will not be licensed until at least 12 months have passed with no further convictions and the driver has passed a driver assessment since the last conviction.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should update our policy for licensed drivers with seven or more points on their DVLA licence to require them to pass a driver assessment within two months of being notified by us, drivers who fail to meet this requirement will not be licensed for 12 months? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree □ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer
24. The new Suitability Guidance states that any driver who has been disqualified from driving as a result of the totting up procedure, which erases the points when the DVLA licence is restored, should not be licensed for a period of 5 years from the date of the disqualification. Other disqualifications (for reasons other than totting-up) will need to be investigated, the reasons ascertained, and a decision will be based on the results of that investigation.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should update our policy so that a driver that has been disqualified because they accumulated 12 or more points on their DVLA licence should have to wait five years from the date of disqualification before we will grant them a licence? Please tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree □ Disagree □ Strongly disagree
□ I don't know

Please give the reasons for your answer
25. The new Suitability Guidance states that any driver who has accumulated
12 or more points on their DVLA licence and has not been disqualified under
the totting up procedure by a court as a result of making exceptional hardship
arguments shall not be able to advance such arguments before the licensing
authority as they are not a relevant consideration in determining what action
the authority should take. Any such driver will not be licensed for a period of
five years from the date of the accumulation or more points.
invergears from the date of the accumulation of more points.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should update our policy so
that, even if they have avoided disqualification by claiming exceptional
hardship, a driver that has accumulated 12 or more points on their DVLA
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licence should have to wait five years from the date of reaching 12 points before we will grant them a licence? Please tick (✓) one option Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree I don't know

26. The new Suitability Guidance states that drivers who commit parking, obstruction or other such motoring offences that do not attract DVLA penalty points are not displaying a professional approach to their work. Persistent offenders should be reported to their licensing authority who may consider a period of suspension depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents reported.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should update our policy so

that anyone who persistently commits minor motoring offences that do not attract DVLA penalty points may have their licence considered for a period of suspension?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
□ I don't know
Please give the reasons for your answer

Regulatory non-compliance

The Suitability Guidance lists the following as examples of regulatory non-compliance:

- local authority offences
- licensing matters
- other offences prosecuted by public authorities
- failing to surrender to bail
- any other matter where regulations or requirements have been ignored or broken

27. The guidance considers that these offences demonstrate a lack of compliance with legal requirements which would clearly be a worry in relation to taxi and private hire licensees, and that serious consideration should be given as to whether they are a safe and suitable person to hold a licence.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should introduce a policy of

triat extent do you agree or alsagree triat we should introduce a policy or
king regulatory non-compliance into account when deciding whether to
ant a licence?
ease tick (✔) one option
☐ Strongly agree
□ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree
☐ I don't know
ease give the reasons for your answer
. Our current policy states that if we revoke a licence for persistent breaches licence conditions, we will not usually grant another licence to that person a period of three to five years, depending on the nature and extent of the each of conditions.
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licence conditions, we will not usually grant another licence to that person a period of three to five years, depending on the nature and extent of the each of conditions.
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licence conditions, we will not usually grant another licence to that person a period of three to five years, depending on the nature and extent of the each of conditions. what extent do you agree or disagree that when we revoke a licence due persistent breach of licence conditions, we should not grant another ence to that person for at least three years? ease tick (✓) one option
licence conditions, we will not usually grant another licence to that person a period of three to five years, depending on the nature and extent of the each of conditions. what extent do you agree or disagree that when we revoke a licence due persistent breach of licence conditions, we should not grant another ence to that person for at least three years? ease tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree
licence conditions, we will not usually grant another licence to that person a period of three to five years, depending on the nature and extent of the each of conditions. what extent do you agree or disagree that when we revoke a licence due persistent breach of licence conditions, we should not grant another ence to that person for at least three years? ease tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree
licence conditions, we will not usually grant another licence to that person a period of three to five years, depending on the nature and extent of the each of conditions. what extent do you agree or disagree that when we revoke a licence due persistent breach of licence conditions, we should not grant another ence to that person for at least three years? ease tick (✓) one option □ Strongly agree □ Agree □ Neither agree nor disagree

Please give the reasons for your answer
29. Both our current policy and Suitability Guidance state that where an applicant has a conviction for an offence concerned with or connected to hackney carriage or private hire activity, not covered elsewhere, a licence will not be granted until at least seven years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.
To what extent do you agree or disagree that where a person has a conviction for an offence concerned with or connected to hackney carriage or private hire activity not covered elsewhere in the policy, we should not grant them a licence until seven years have elapsed since the completion of any
sentence they served?
Please tick (✓) one option
☐ Strongly agree
☐ Agree
☐ Neither agree nor disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Strongly disagree ☐ I don't know
LI TUON CKNOW
Please give the reasons for your answer

Unacceptable behaviours

The new Suitability Guidance states that driver behaviours that fall short of criminal behaviour but are indicators of more sinister behaviour need to be addressed to maintain confidence in the taxi trades and to stop unwanted behaviours before they evolve into criminal acts. Behaviours such as:

- asking a passenger for their contact or social media details
- asking personal or intimate questions
- inappropriate physical contact with passengers or invasion of their personal space
- inappropriate conversations, questions or behaviour

This is especially important if the passenger is a lone vulnerable individual.

30. Except in the most serious cases, drivers should be given a warning in the first instance, if appropriate sent on refresher safeguard training and explained how the behaviour maybe perceived by a vulnerable passenger.

If any such behaviour is repeated and considered to be predatory in nature, then any applicant should not be licensed.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should update our policy so that, when we receive repeated reports of unacceptable behaviour by a driver that can be considered predatory, we should take action to consider whether the driver's licence should be revoked.

Please tick (✓) one option	
☐ Strongly agree	
☐ Agree	
☐ Neither agree nor disagree	
☐ Disagree	
☐ Strongly disagree	
☐ I don't know	
Please give the reasons for your answer	

Further comments

31. Please provide any further comments you have on the criminal and unacceptable behaviour aspects of our taxi licensing policy and/or the Institute of Licencing Suitability Guidance.
About you
We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.
Please tick (✓) all that apply ☐ I live in Buckinghamshire ☐ I work in Buckinghamshire ☐ I study in Buckinghamshire ☐ I am a licensed private hire vehicle driver ☐ I am a licensed hackney carriage vehicle driver ☐ I represent a licensed taxi operator ☐ I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire (other than a taxi operator) ☐ I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire ☐ I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire ☐ I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire ☐ I work for Buckinghamshire Council ☐ Other (please give details below):

33. How d	id you find out about this consultation?
Please	tick (✓) all that apply
_ ι	ocal media (newspaper, radio, TV, website or newsfeed)
	ocial media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
	Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
	mail or newsletter from Buckinghamshire Council
	Buckinghamshire Council staff or other professionals
П	hrough working at Buckinghamshire Council
☐ P	Poster or leaflet
□ F	riend or family member
□ L	ocal community or special interest group
	Councillor, town/parish council or community board
	Other (please give details below):
Please to Please	u responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a or a voluntary group)? tick (✓) one option as an individual (go to question 36) On behalf of an organisation f of an organisation provide the following details: rganisation:
Please to Please	or a voluntary group)? tick (✓) one option As an individual (go to question 36) On behalf of an organisation f of an organisation provide the following details:

End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation

More about you

(if responding as an individual)

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

activ	y.		
All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.			
V d	Ve w on't	t is your postcode? yant to understand the views of people living in different areas. You have to provide your postcode, but it helps us plan and make dered decisions.	
37. \	N ha	t is your age?	
	-	we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent age groups.	
Р	leas	e tick (✓) one option	
		Under 16	
		16 to 24	
		25 to 34	
		35 to 44	
		45 to 54	
		55 to 64	
		65 to 74	
		75 to 84	
		Over 85	
		Prefer not to say	

38. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please	e tick (✔) all that apply
	Disability / disabilities
	Impairment(s)
	Long term health condition(s)
	No
	Prefer not to say
39. Are y	ou:
=	we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent sexes.
Pleas	e tick (✔) one option
	Female
	Male
	Prefer not to say
	•
40. How	would you describe your ethnicity?
Why	
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent ethnicities.
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent ethnicities. e tick (✓) one option
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent ethnicities. e tick (✓) one option Asian - British
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent ethnicities. e tick (✓) one option Asian - British Asian - Bangladeshi
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent ethnicities. e tick (✓) one option Asian - British Asian - Bangladeshi Asian - Chinese
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent ethnicities. e tick (✓) one option Asian - British Asian - Bangladeshi Asian - Chinese Asian - Indian
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent ethnicities. e tick (✓) one option Asian - British Asian - Bangladeshi Asian - Chinese Asian - Indian Asian - Pakistani
Why differ	would you describe your ethnicity? we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of ent ethnicities. e tick (✓) one option Asian - British Asian - Bangladeshi Asian - Chinese Asian - Indian Asian - Pakistani Any other Asian background - Please give details below

	Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
	White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British White - Irish White - Gypsy or English traveller White - Irish Traveller White - European Any other White background - Please give details below Other ethnic group - Arab Other ethnic group - Arab British Other ethnic group - Please give details below
Pleas	Prefer not to say e give other details here:
1 1200	- O

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return your completed survey by 11:59pm on 9 March 2025. You can:

- email it to taxilicensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- post it to Taxi Licensing, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8FF