



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 071588
Date 20 July 2015

Guide and Assistance Dog Refusals in Taxi and Private Hire Cars

Request and response in 'blue':

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: GUIDE AND ASSISTANCE DOG REFUSALS

I am requesting the following information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

From 2013 to the current date, please can you provide a yearly breakdown of the following information?

Number of licenses

1. The number of a) taxi / Hackney Carriage and b) private hire licences issued in your licencing area.
The number currently stands:
Hackney Carriage licences is 178
Private Hire licences is 715.

Exemption to requirements to carry guide or assistance dogs

2. The number of certificates issued to a) hackney carriage / taxi and b) private hire licensees exempting drivers from carrying guide or assistance dogs
Hackney Carriages – none.
Private Hire – 1
3. In your licensing area, Is a GP's note considered sufficient evidence for the issue of an exemption certificate under S169 and S171 of the Equality Act 2010?
No, we ask for an independent medical assessment.

Complaints, prosecutions and enforcement action

4. How many complaints or allegations were made against a) hackney carriage / taxi drivers and b) private hire drivers for refusing to carry a guide or assistance

dog?

No complaints received for either Hackney Carriage or Private Hire

5. How many a) hackney carriage / taxi and b) private hire drivers did you prosecute for refusing a guide or assistance dog in each year and how many of these resulted in conviction?

From 2013 until the current date, the answer is none.

6. How many a) hackney carriage / taxi and b) private hire drivers did you take enforcement action against (in each year) for refusing to carry guide or assistance dogs?

The number of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers that faced enforcement action was none from 2013 to the current date.

7. Do you have a policy in your licensing area whether or not to prosecute drivers believed to have refused guide or assistance dogs? If so, please can you confirm whether you do prosecute where appropriate or whether you have a policy to dispose of cases in any other way.

We do not have a specific policy; however it is a condition of the driver's licence conditions that they carry assistance dogs free of charge unless they have a proven medical condition that would preclude them from such action. If the driver breached the condition, then the driver would be subject to a review of his licence.