

Temporary Protective Screens for Licensed Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles

In light of the COVID-19 virus and the impact it is having on the hackney carriage and private hire trade, Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Service is happy to work with the trade to enable as many of our licensed drivers the ability to safely continue working throughout the outbreak, assisting where possible in attempting to mitigate the risks to drivers and passengers of inadvertently contracting the virus.

In response to requests from the trade the Council will permit, as a temporary measure, the installation of a protective screen. The screen should be fitted behind the driver and front passenger seat (in-between the rear passenger compartment and the driver). It is recommended that drivers insist all rear seated passengers wear the seatbelts provided.

However, the protective screen:

- **Must** be clear and transparent;
- **Must** only be fitted across the rear of both front seats of a vehicle creating a partition between the front and rear seats;
- **Must not** be permanently installed in the vehicle;
- **Must not** have a solid frame to the screen;
- **Must only** be fitted by way of either Velcro or adhesive fastenings, which can be removed from the vehicle when the screens are no longer permitted.
- **Must** be fitted in such a way so as to not affect the structural integrity of the vehicle, or interfere with any manufacturer fitted safety equipment e.g. airbags;
- **Must not** wrap around the driver seat and create a partition between the two front seats, in addition to the rear seating area.
- **Must** be cleaned with a suitable anti-bacterial substance at the conclusion of each fare

Process to be followed when wishing to fit a Temporary Screen

If any proprietor or driver wishes to fit a temporary protective screen in their vehicle, they **MUST**:

- Notify the Authority of their intention to fit a protective screen by emailing licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk together with;
- A written undertaking confirming that fitting the protective screen will not result in their insurer refusing to cover the vehicle, and;
- An agreement to remove the protective screen within a maximum of **21 days** after the current social distancing restrictions relating to COVID-19 have been removed.

Example undertaking

From (date) I fitted a temporary screen in accordance with the above guidelines in vehicle registration number

I can confirm that I have advised my insurance company of the fitting of this screen who have in turn confirmed that the insurance cover will not be affected.

I agree to remove the screen after the current social distancing restrictions relating to COVID-19 have been removed

Name