



Private Hire or Hackney Carriage – Know the difference

Private Hire Vehicles

A licensed private hire vehicle is identified by the plate fixed to the rear of the vehicle, a front window card and, in most cases door signs on the side of the vehicle. The plate and window card are yellow in colour and displays the licence number along with details of the vehicle and the expiry date of that licence.

These vehicles are only allowed to carry out pre-booked work booked through an operator. It is illegal for any private hire driver to accept jobs without a prior booking made through their operator. If the vehicle were to carry out a job without a correct booking, the vehicle and its occupants are not covered by the insurance and, if caught, the driver (and in some cases the operator) will be prosecuted.

The driver of a private hire vehicle is issued with a driver badge which is either yellow or green in colour and should be worn at all times when operating the vehicle, even if not working.

Executive Plated vehicles

These vehicles are usually of a higher standard and used for contract work only. These vehicles do not display a plate on the rear as they are discrete in nature, but do have a gold window card which should be displayed in the front windscreen of the vehicle. They must carry out pre-booked work only and cannot be 'hailed'

Hackney Carriage (Taxi) Vehicles

An Aylesbury Vale licensed hackney carriage vehicle comes in two types; a white plated hackney and a red plated (rural) hackney carriage.

White Plated Hackney Carriage Vehicle

A white plated hackney carriage vehicle is black in colour and identified by the plate that is fixed to the rear of the vehicle and a front window card. The rear plate and window card is white in colour and displays the vehicle's licence number along with details of the vehicle and the expiry date of that licence. The vehicle will have a "taxi" roof sign and will be designed to look like a typical London style Taxi. These vehicles are allowed to carry out both pre-booked work booked through an operator and jobs collected at the side of the road or 'hailed' jobs.

These vehicles are only allowed to ply for hire in the town of Aylesbury. The driver of a hackney carriage vehicle is issued with a driver badge which is green in colour and should be worn at all times when operating the vehicle, even if not working.

Red Hackney Carriage Vehicle

A red hackney carriage vehicle is white in colour and identified by the plate fixed to the rear of the vehicle. The plate is red in colour and displays the licence number along with details of the vehicle and the expiry date of that licence. The vehicle will also display a red window card in the front windscreen. The vehicle will have a "taxi" roof sign and will be designed to look like a typical London style Taxi. These vehicles are allowed to carry out both pre-booked work booked through an operator and jobs collected at the side of the road or 'hailed' jobs. These vehicles are only allowed to operate in Aylesbury Vale (the villages in the Aylesbury Vale District **excluding** Aylesbury itself.) The driver of a hackney carriage is issued with a driver badge which is green in colour and should be worn at all times when operating vehicle, even if not working.