

Gloucester City Council

GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE RELEVANCE OF CONVICTIONS

General Policy

1. Each case will be decided on its own merits.

The overriding consideration must be the safety of the public. The council has a duty to ensure so far as is possible that persons licensed to drive hackney and private hire vehicles are fit and proper persons to do so.

2. A person with a current conviction for serious crime need not be permanently barred from obtaining a licence but should be expected to remain:

- (a) Free of convictions for an appropriate period, and

- (b) Show evidence of good character from the time of the conviction. Simply remaining free of conviction does not necessarily provide sufficient evidence of good character.

Discretion would be appropriate where an offence is an isolated one and there are mitigating circumstances. Multiple offences or a series of offences over a period of time would give greater cause for concern and may give indications of a pattern of criminal behaviour which would need to be taken into account.

3. The following examples afford a general guide on the action to be taken where convictions are disclosed:

- (a) Minor Traffic Offences

Isolated convictions for minor traffic offences, e.g. obstruction, waiting in a restricted street, etc., should not prevent a person from proceeding with an application. However the number, type and frequency of the type of offence should be taken into account. If sufficient points have been accrued to require a period of disqualification of the applicant's driving licence then a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence may be granted after its restoration but a warning should be issued as to future conduct.

- (b) Major Traffic Offences

An isolated conviction for a major traffic offence should normally merit a warning as to future driving and advice on the standard expected of hackney carriage and PHV drivers. More than one conviction for this type of offence within the last two years should merit refusal and no further application should be considered until a period of 1 to 3 years free from convictions has elapsed.

A list of those offences considered as major is attached.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Gloucester City Council Tel 01452 396396 Fax 01452 396340
Herbert Warehouse Email heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk
The Docks Minicom 01452 396161
Gloucester GL1 2EQ www.gloucester.gov.uk



GLOUCESTER
CITY COUNCIL

(c) Drunkenness

(i) With Motor Vehicle

A serious view should be taken of convictions of driving or being in charge of a vehicle while under the influence of drink. An isolated incident should not necessarily debar an applicant but strict warnings should be given as to future behaviour.

More than one conviction for this type of offence should raise grave doubts as to the applicants fitness to hold a licence and, where disqualification has occurred, at least 3 years from the date of restoration of the drivers licence should have elapsed before the application is considered.

If there is any suggestion that the applicant is an alcoholic a special medical examination should be arranged and if the applicant is found to be an alcoholic there should be a period of at least 5 years from the completion of detoxification treatment before an application is entertained

(ii) Not in Motor Vehicle

An isolated conviction for drunkenness need not debar an applicant from gaining a licence. However, a number of convictions for drunkenness could indicate a medical problem necessitating critical examination (see above). In some cases, a warning may be sufficient.

(d) Drugs

An applicant with a conviction for a drug related offence should be required to show a period of at least 3 years free of convictions before an application is entertained, or 5 years after detoxification treatment if he/she was an addict.

(e) Indecency Offences

As Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers often carry unaccompanied passengers, applicants with convictions for indecent exposure, indecent assault, importuning, or any of the more serious sexual offences, should be refused until they can show a substantial period (at least 5 years) free of such offences. More than one conviction of this should preclude consideration for at least 5 years. In either case if a licence is granted a strict warning as to future conduct should be issued. NB Sexual Offences Register.

(f) Violence

As hackney carriage and PHV drivers maintain close contact with the public a firm line should be taken with applicants who have convictions for grievous bodily harm, wounding or assault. Depending on the seriousness of the offence at least 3 years free of such convictions should be shown before an application is entertained and even then a strict warning should be administered.

(g) Dishonesty

Hackney carriage drivers and PHV drivers are expected to be persons of trust. The widespread practice of delivering unaccompanied property is indicative of the trust that business people place in drivers. Moreover, it is comparatively easy for a dishonest driver to defraud the public by demanding more than the legal fare etc. Overseas visitors can be confused by the change in currency and become “fair game” for an unscrupulous driver. For these reasons a serious view should be taken of any conviction involving dishonesty. In general, a period of 3 to 5 years free of conviction should be required before entertaining an application.

(h) Licensing Offences

Any contravention of licensing laws or conditions, irrespective of whether or not these are related to hackney carriage or private hire licensing, are important as they suggest a disregard of the importance of those requirements. Depending on the nature and seriousness of the offence 1 to 3 years should have elapsed following conviction before an application is entertained.

(i) Offences of Discrimination

Offences of discrimination are a serious concern to all as they represent unacceptable treatment of certain sections of our society. A conviction for this type of offence should be taken extremely seriously. Each case would need to be assessed on an individual basis and although the applicant may not be debarred from receiving a licence a strict warning should always be given. On considering any case care should be taken before issuing a licence to assess if the applicant is deemed to be a ‘fit and proper person’ to hold a licence.

(j) Other Miscellaneous Offences

These could include local authority offences, bye law offences, nuisance offences etc. which although may not be directly relevant to hackney carriage and private hire licensing would demonstrate a feckless or irresponsible attitude and should not be discounted lightly. Each case would need to be assessed on an individual basis and although they may not necessarily debar an applicant from receiving a licence a strict warning should be given.

(k) Spent Convictions

The Council will only consider spent convictions if it appears to be relevant for deciding whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence and that full consideration for determining the application cannot be given except by admitting or requiring evidence relating to that spent conviction.

(l) Cautions and Endorsable Fixed Penalties

For the purposes of these guidelines formal cautions and endorsable fixed penalties shall be treated as though they were convictions.

MAJOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES

Paragraph 3(b) refers

AC10	Failing to stop after an accident.
AC20	Failing to give particulars or to report an accident within 24 hours.
AC30	Undefined accident offences.
BA10	Driving while disqualified due to care and attention.
BA20	Attempting to drive while disqualified by order of the court.
CD10	Driving without due care and attention.
CD20	Driving without reasonable consideration for other road users.
CD30	Driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other road users.
CD40	Causing death through careless driving when unfit through drink.
CD50	Causing death by careless driving when unfit through drugs.
CD60	Causing death by careless driving with alcohol level above the limit.
CD70	Causing death by driving then failing to supply a specimen for analysis.
DD40	Dangerous driving.
DD60	Manslaughter or culpable homicide while driving a vehicle.
DD80	Causing death by dangerous driving.
DR10	Driving or attempting to drive with alcohol level above limit.
DR20	Driving or attempting to drive while unfit through drink.
DR30	Driving or attempting to drive then failing to supply a specimen for analysis.
DR40	In charge of a vehicle while alcohol level above limit.
DR50	In charge of a vehicle while unfit through drink.
DR60	Failure to provide a specimen for analysis in circumstances other than driving or attempting to drive.
DR70	Failing to provide specimen for breath test.
DR80	Driving or attempting to drive when unfit through drugs.
DR90	In charge of vehicle when unfit through drugs.
IN10	Using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks.
LC20	Driving otherwise than in accordance with a license.
LC30	Driving after making a false declaration about fitness when applying for a license.
LC40	Driving a vehicle having failed to notify a disability.
LC50	Driving after a license has been revoked or refused on medical grounds.
MS50	Motor racing on the highway.
MS60	Offences not covered by other codes.
UT50	Aggravated taking of a vehicle.

Aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring

Offences as coded above, but with 0 changed to 2 (e.g. IN10 becomes IN12)

Causing or permitting

Offences as coded above, but with 0 changed to 4 (e.g. IN10 becomes IN14)

Inciting

Offences as coded above, but with 0 changed to 6 (e.g. IN10 becomes IN16)