



Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Newsletter – February 2018

Welcome to the February 2018 edition of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Newsletter. This newsletter contains information regarding Fleet Services, a Consultation on the Bristol electric vehicle charging network and guidance from Avon and Somerset Constabulary Mounted Section.

Chair of Public Safety and Protection Committee

A huge thank you goes to Councillor Ruth Pickersgill for her hard work and dedication as Chair of Public Safety and Protection Committee. Replacing Councillor Pickersgill is Councillor Fi Hance, who some of you may remember as Chair of PSP several years ago.

Councillor Hance says, “I’m looking forward to building on Cllr Pickersgill’s work, but in the meantime, please do get in touch with me if you have any concerns or queries”.

Taxi Conference

Please note the date for the Taxi Conference has changed from 15th March 2018, to Monday 16th April 2018.

More information will follow.

Notice of increase in MOT price

Fleet Services– April 2018

Please note as from the 1st April 2018, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Test fees will increase;

Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Compliance Tests Parts 1&2	£50
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Compliance Tests Parts 1&2 Retest	£25
New Vehicle Compliance Tests including Measuring Parts 1&2	£65
New Vehicle Compliance Tests including Measuring Parts 1&2 Retest	£25

LEVC – Electric Taxi

The London Electric Vehicle Company has released the new TX Electric Taxi. A demonstration vehicle was made available at City Hall and Fleet Services on 19th December 2017, where Bristol drivers had the opportunity to inspect the vehicle in detail.

Further details on the vehicle itself can be found on the LEVC website at;
<http://www.levc.com/media-pr/tx-electric-taxi/>



The government have also introduced an incentive scheme for drivers to promote low emission vehicles.

Details on the scheme can also be found on the LEVC website at;
<http://www.levc.com/finance/ev-taxi-grants-incentives/>

And also on the Travelwest website;
<https://travelwest.info/drive/electric-vehicles>

Roadworks.org

Roadworks.org is a website containing all listed roadworks, nationwide, and is a useful tool when planning journeys. Local Authorities and Utility Companies feed information to the website, which provides a Live information service to road users.

Further information can be found at <https://roadworks.org>

Destination Bristol Visitor Guide

The Bristol Visitor Guide is a handy introduction to those new to the city, whether visiting for business, or a weekend away.

The Guide introduces different areas of the city, features ideas of where to go and what to do, and for our international travellers includes maps and introductions to the city in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Chinese.

The Guide has been produced by the VisitBristol team and features comprehensive editorial, as well as advertisements for tourist friendly businesses in the area.

A number of paper Guides have been made available to drivers and can be collected from the citizen Service Point at 100 Temple Street. An electronic version of the Guide is also available here;
<https://visitbristol.co.uk/dbimgs/Visit%20Bristol%20Visitor%20Guide%202018.pdf>

More information is also available at <http://visitbristol.co.uk>

Avon and Somerset Constabulary – Mounted Police Section

As professional drivers you will regularly experience encounters with all types of road users either on the busy inner city roads or more rural roads in the countryside.

In addition to motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists there are also horses on any type of road. Horses found on the inner city roads are usually those of Avon and Somerset Constabulary ridden by Police Officers.

Today we are asking if you are confident in your knowledge of how to negotiate horses being ridden, no matter of the road layout or environment that they are in.



1. Slow down to 15mph
2. Be patient, don't sound your horn or rev your engine
3. Pass horse wide (at least a car's width)
4. Drive slowly away

Advice given by The British Horse Society together with
Avon & Somerset Constabulary

For further information or advice please contact the
Mounted section:



101



www.avonandsomerset.police.uk



[avonandsomersetpolice](https://www.facebook.com/avonandsomersetpolice)



[@ASPoliceHorses](https://twitter.com/ASPoliceHorses)

Police Horses are well trained; however they are still animals with minds of their own and need to be treated as such. Other riders and their horses will vary in their experience and may not have the same confidence as a Police rider, therefore having an awareness of your responsibilities and the advice listed below will help increase the safety of all road users.

Horses like any animals are unpredictable which is why you need to give them plenty of space. If you spook a horse by making loud noises or passing too quickly, it can react in many ways – all of which are likely to lead to injury or damage of property.

A frightened horse may do any of the following things:

Spin, turn or jump away at speed from an object that it is scared of, this could be a puddle of water, a door slamming, a loud engine from a motor bike or motor vehicle, a large colourful piece of street furniture, a bird taking flight from the street or bushes or even a carrier bag being blown in the wind.

A horse has the ability to kick out with a reach of up to 1.5 metres so if you are too close behind or when passing a horse this can cause significant damage not only to the horse but also to your vehicle.

A horse has the flight instinct and may run from whatever it is scared of. The horse could run forwards, backwards or sideways in a split second. Again if you are too close to the horse it could cause significant damage to your vehicle.

A horse when scared may throw off its rider which if you are driving with care around horses and you are not able to stop your vehicle may cause significant further injury to both horse and rider.

If you frighten a horse it may lash out, injuring it's rider and might make contact with your car damaging it badly. If this happens because of your negligence you could receive a formal warning from Police in relation to your taxi licence or you could be prosecuted for driving without reasonable consideration, without due care and attention or driving dangerously.

When you see horses on the road we are asking drivers to do the following;

- **Slow right down to 15 mph and be prepared to stop altogether especially if the rider asks you to.**
- **Be patient, don't sound your horn or rev your engine.**
- **Leave at least a car's width between your car and the horse.**
- **Drive away slowly.**

Avon and Somerset Constabulary are working with the British Horse Society to educate both drivers and riders of their responsibilities when using the roads. This will help everyone understand each other and encourage **ALL** road users to share the road considerately and safely whilst keeping each other safe.

Taxi Cop Update

Hello all, many of you will have received updates via WhatsApp about my work and the results I'm getting, and it's good to hear that my work is having a positive effect on your working lives.

Sometimes, it takes a while for cases to work through the Criminal Justice and Committee systems and there can often be a lag between me detecting the offence and the final sanction. For example, I caught two drivers plying for hire in August, and they have been to court in the last few weeks and given

finances and costs, but have yet to appear before Committee for Members to determine if they are still Fit and Proper people to be licensed drivers. Similarly, with drivers found to be overcharging, it will be a number of weeks before the results can be shared with you. Be in no doubt though, this work is happening.

I have just started work on my 36th Plyer investigation, and there will be a lot more work around overcharging and refusals in the weeks ahead. If you would like to know about the results of these investigations, you are welcome to join my WhatsApp group. All you need to do is add Taxi Cop 07469 400832 to your list of contacts and send me a message with your full name, which council/organisation you are with and your badge number if relevant. As well as real time information, I also send out updates with results from Court and Committee.

I'm delighted to have had my role extended for another year, and would like to thank Nick Carter, Jon Martin, the Licensing and Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams, and my boss Inspector Rowland for their continued support. I'm also grateful for your support, both to those who sent emails asking for my post to be continued and for the day to day support you give me. Like you, I work largely alone in the night time economy and at 4am on a wet Saturday, your thumbs up and messages keep me going.

With thousands of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire area - Keeping people safe, improving standards and dealing with those who break the law and their licensing conditions is a big job for one person - but with the support of you all, and working with officers from Bristol City Council good progress is being made!

Best wishes,
PC Patrick Quinton.
TAXI COP.

Have your say on Bristol's Electric Vehicle Charging Network

In January 2016, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) announced that Bristol - together with the other West of England authorities¹ - had been awarded £7.1million of funding over five years for the Go Ultra Low West (GULW) programme. The programme will promote and increase the uptake of electric vehicles, including plug-in hybrids, across the region. OLEV's ambition

¹ Participating local authorities are Bristol City Council, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

is to have virtually zero emissions on Britain's roads by 2050 which is in line with Bristol's ambitions to be a city that runs entirely on clean energy.

A major public consultation has been launched to help inform the future development of Bristol and the West of England region's chargepoint network for electric vehicles. Taxis and Private Hire operators are key stakeholders in the network. The organisations running the project want to hear views from any current user of the network - or people who would like to operate an electric vehicle in the future - on how Bristol's electric chargepoint network should be run, managed and supported going forward.

The consultation process includes a [survey](#) and focus groups, and is run by Bristol City Council partners [Cenex](#) with the [Energy Saving Trust](#) (EST). Cenex and EST are working together to strategically assess the existing chargepoint network, identify any issues, and find where additional infrastructure needs to go.

If you live or work in the West of England and would like to contribute your thoughts to the research, please [follow this link to take part in the survey](#). Completing the survey should take no more than ten minutes and, upon completion, those responding will be able to enter a prize draw for a chance to win a £100 Amazon shopping voucher.

The online survey asks questions related to how the network is run, accessed, experiences, and people's driving habits, such as vehicle type, mileage etc. The survey is live until Friday 9th March.

The focus groups are due to take place during the week of the 19th of February 2018. If you would like to take part in the focus group sessions, please email Energy Saving Trust at transportadvice@est.org.uk with the subject "West of England EV Focus Group" and we will be in touch with more details.

Reporting Lost Property

Have you found items belonging to passengers in your vehicle?

If you find an item which has been left in your vehicle, please take it to the nearest Police Station. Avon and Somerset Police can upload details of the lost item to a website called <http://www.reportmyloss.com>.

Members of the public can use this website to search a database of items

handed into the Police.

Any queries from the public to the Licensing Team are signposted to Avon and Somerset Police as well the Report My Loss website. Please note the Licensing Team does not deal with Lost Property, and will be unable to handle any items handed into 100 Temple Street.

Appeal for information

As part of an ongoing investigation police are looking to trace a Bristol taxi driver who picked up a male and a female from near Mbargos, Bristol City Centre shortly after 3am on Saturday 7th October 2017. They were taken to the Warman Close area of Stockwood where they then made off from the taxi without paying. They are described as follows:

- Male – aged 28, Asian, 6'4" tall, medium build, brown eyes, short black hair, no known marks/scars/tattoos, wearing smart trousers, white shirt and a long coat.
- Female – aged 21, white, approx. 5'3"-5'4" tall, medium build, long brown hair, no known marks/scars/tattoos, wearing pink skirt, black top and heels.

If you know anything about this please call the OIC PC 4930 Bulley at Bristol Investigations on 101 and quote reference 5217237651.

Hackney Carriage Meters

Hackney Carriage meters are set at a higher rate during Bank Holiday periods in accordance with the Hackney Carriage Tariff.

As advised previously, we were made aware that there were potential issues in relation to the current settings on some calendar controlled meters installed in vehicles in Bristol.

Some meters may not have registered the Bank Holiday period from Christmas 2017 onwards. This means during Bank Holiday periods, the meters may continue to charge the normal rate.

We would still advise all vehicle proprietors to check with their meter provider to see if this issue applies to their vehicle meter particularly in respect of the Easter Bank holidays. If this is the case you will need to have your meters recalibrated to ensure passengers are charged correctly during

Bank Holiday periods.

Please use the contact details below for more information or to arrange for your meter to be recalibrated;

TSUK 0117 9717119

<http://www.tachograph-bristol.co.uk/new-page>

Gardner Taxi Equipment 0117 966 9646

<http://www.gardnertaxiequipment.com>

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences

We have been made aware of incorrect information being communicated via the taxi ranks concerning extension of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences beyond 31 March 2018. The rumour is that vehicles which no longer meet the policy beyond 31 March 2018 will be licensed for an extra three months to 30 June 2018. This is not the case.

Proprietors will have up to three months (30 June 2018) following the expiry of the licence to replace their existing vehicles with a new vehicle. During this period there will not be a licence in place, meaning the existing vehicle cannot be used for the purpose of a Hackney Carriage.

Closure of Bristol Temple Meads Train Station

Please note Temple Meads Train Station will be closed completely from Friday 30th March 2018 to Wednesday 4th April 2018. This is to allow for major signalling works as part of a wider upgrade programme.

There will be a major rail replacement bus service in operation, resulting in increased congestion around Temple Meads. The ramp into the main entrance of the station (Station Approach) will remain open; however the eight layover taxi bays at the lower level of Station Approach will be closed. All displaced bus services will operate from Redcliffe Way. If any further information becomes available, this will be communicated as soon as possible.

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

If you or your colleagues would like to continue to receive the newsletter,
please ensure your email address is kept up to date with the Licensing Team.

Copyright © 2018 Bristol City Council Licensing Team, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you have previously applied for a licence with Bristol City Council.

Our mailing address is:

Bristol City Council Licensing Team
100 Temple Street
PO Box 3176
Bristol, BS3 9FS
United Kingdom

The MailChimp logo, featuring the word "MailChimp" in a white, cursive script font, set against a dark grey rectangular background.