

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

24 JULY 2023

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A.1 VARIOUS LICENSING PROVISIONS - APPLICATIONS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS IN QUARTER 1 – 2023/24

(Report prepared by Michael Cook and Keith Simmons)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report seeks to provide the Committee with data on the number of licences, certificates and permits authorised by the Council in quarter 1 2023/24. The majority of these have been authorised by Officers in accordance with approved schemes of delegation. Data is provided to Committee on the most recent complete quarters (April to June, July to September, October to December and January to March) together with previous quarters so as to aid comparison between quarters and years.

Included within this report is the Department for Transport National statistics for taxis and private hire throughout England which have been recently published.

This report also provides the Committee with details of licensing policies that are in place or are proposed with intended development/review time frames.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The details of number of licences, certificates and permits within the responsibility of the Democratic Services and Elections that were granted are set out under the separate headings below:

(i) Licensing Act 2003 - Premises Licences/Club Premises Certificates

The total of Premises Licences / Club Premises Certificates that have been approved under Delegated Powers during the period as detailed below. For comparison, the following also shows the numbers approved for the periods shown:

Type of Licence	Number of Licences as at			
	5 January to 31 August 2022	31 August 2022 to 31 January 2023	January to March 2023 (Q4 2022/23)	April to June 2023 (Q1 2023/24)
Premises Licences/Club Premises Certificates - Approved	48	26	26	15

(ii) **Personal Licences under the Licensing Act 2003**

The total of Personal Licences approved under Delegated Powers since 7 February 2005, the 'First Appointed Day' on the dates shown were.

Type of Licence	Number of Licences as at			
	31 August 2022	31 January 2023	March 2023 (End of Q4 2022/23)	June 2023 (End of Q1 2023/24)
Personal Licences	2318	2372	2381	2409

(iii) **Gambling Act 2005 - Gambling Licences/Permits**

Below is a table showing the number of gambling licences and permits that were licensed with this Authority on the dates shown.

Type of Licence	Number of Licences as at			
	31 August 2022	31 January 2023	March 2023 (End of Q4 2022/23)	June 2023 (End of Q1 2023/24)
Adult Gaming Centres	21	19	19	19
Betting Premises	12	11	11	11
Bingo Premises	12	14	15	15
Family Entertainment Centres	4	2	2	2
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres	29	29	29	29
Prize Gaming Permits	2	2	2	1
Club Gaming & Club Machine Permits	23	24	23	23
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits	25	21	21	22
Licensed Premises Machine Notifications	117	114	116	116
Small Society Lottery Permits	105	120	117	116

(iv) **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 - Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licence**

Below is a table showing the number of drivers, vehicles and operators that were licensed with this Authority on the dates shown.

Type of Licence	Number of Licences as at			
	31 August 2022	31 January 2023	March 2023 (End of Q4 2022/23)	June 2023 (End of Q1 2023/24)
Hackney Carriage Driver	277	278	280	279
Private Hire Driver	7	7	6	6
Hackney Carriage Vehicle	216	201	200	198
Private Hire Vehicle	27	26	27	27
Private Hire Operator	22	19	18	19

Temporary Insurance Vehicles Issued	10	5	3	2
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Although the numbers of driver applications processed is broadly the same now has been the case over the last year, there has been a drop in the number of existing licenced drivers renewing (and a comparative increase in new individuals becoming licenced).

Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Statistics, England 2023

The Department for Transport have published on 11 July 2023 National statistics for taxis and private hire throughout England. Data for 2023 represents the position as at 01 April 2023. Figures are updated every year through surveying each Licensing Authority in England.

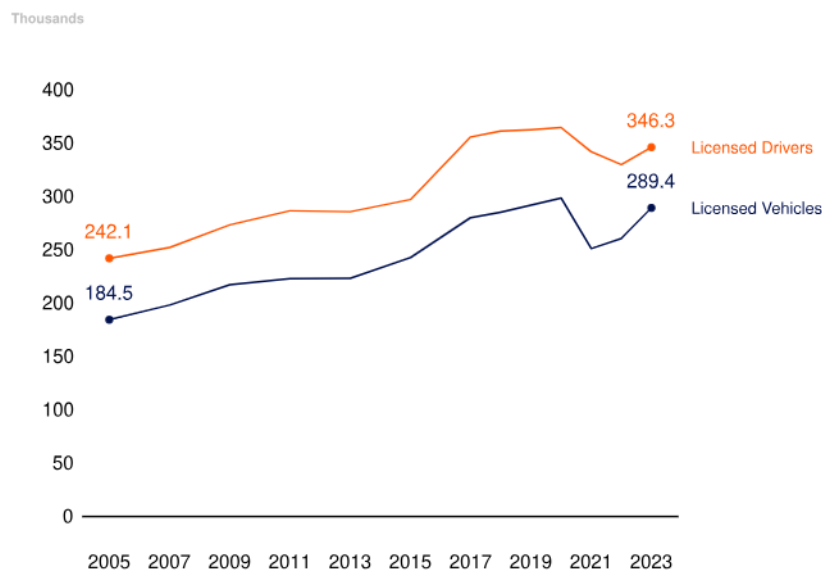
Trends since 2005

Chart 1 is a line chart that shows how the number of licenced vehicles and drivers has changed over time. Between 2005 and 2020, the total number of licenced vehicles increased from 184,500 in 2005 to 298,600 in 2020. This figure then fell sharply to 251,100 in 2021, before increasing again to 289,400 in 2023.

Chart 1 shows that there were 346,300 driver licences in 2023, an increase of 4.9% compared to the previous year. Between 2005 and 2020 the number of driver licences increased from 242,100 to 364,700. It then fell to 330,000 in 2022 before increasing again in 2023.

Licence lengths for vehicles are generally shorter than those for drivers. This is likely to explain the slightly different trends seen in vehicle and driver licences over the course of the pandemic.

Chart 1

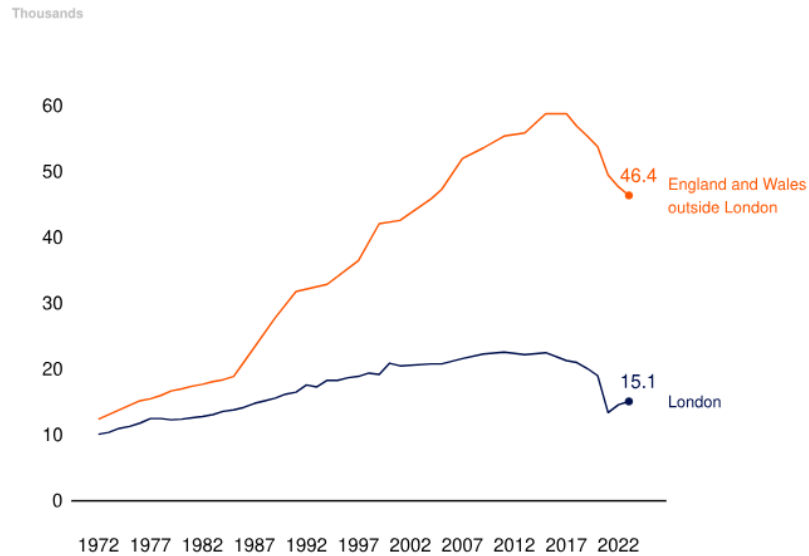


Long term taxi trends

Chart 2 is a line chart that shows that between 1972 and 2015 the numbers of licenced taxis in London, and in England and Wales outside of London, both broadly followed an increasing trend, albeit at different rates. Since 2015 the numbers have fallen, with a particularly sharp fall seen since 2020, which is likely to be at least in part due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The number of taxis in 2023 was substantially higher than in 1972: the numbers of licensed taxis almost quadrupled in England and Wales outside of London (increasing from 12,400 to 46,400), while over the same period the numbers in London increased by 45% (from 10,100 to 15,100). Prior to 2005 the only data available relates to the number of licensed taxis and licensed taxi drivers for England and Wales as a whole. Other than for London, data at a lower geographical level is not available.

Chart 2



As at 1 April 2023:

- there were 57,200 licensed taxis, a 1.3% decrease from 2022
- licensed taxis in London increased by 3.4%
- taxis in England outside of London fell by 2.9%

Licensing Policies List

Below is a table showing the licensing policies currently in place with the timescales and proposal of new policies that Officers will be working on going forward.

Licensing Enforcement Policy	Adopted 06 August 2019 Expires 06 August 2024
Gambling Act 2005 – Gambling Licensing Policy Statement	Adopted 29 March 2022 Expires 28 March 2025
Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy	Adopted 22 November 2022 Expires 22 November 2027
CCTV Policy in Taxis	Approved in 2013 and it is proposed that it will become part of the cohesive Taxi Policy referred to elsewhere in the business for this meeting of the Committee.
Sex Establishment Policy	Adopted 2018 – To be reviewed in 2024.

Proposed Policies List

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy	Proposed to be submitted in 2023
Licensing Act 2003 Films Classification Policy	Proposed to be submitted in 2024
Street Collection and House to House Policy	Proposed to be submitted in 2026
Street Trading Policy	Proposed to be submitted in 2026
Scrap Metal	Proposed to be submitted in 2026
Pavement Licence Policy	Proposed to be submitted in 2023 (on the basis that legislation introduces this as more than a temporary provision arising out of a back to business arrangement following the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the information set out in this report including the proposed development/review for Licensing Policies.

APPENDIX

None

REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Include here the Name, Job Title and Email/Telephone details of the person(s) who wrote the report and who can answer questions on the content.

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