



25 March 2020

### **COVID- 19**

We appreciate that for most of us the impact of the virus is having a severe effect on our usual business and working practices, East Lindsey District Council are taking concerns about their residents, licence holders and staff safety very seriously. We understand that these are difficult and unknown times for everyone but would ask that you keep up to date with the latest government guidance which can be found by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The Department of Transport (DoT) has today provided an update on the status of taxi and private hire vehicles, advising that they can continue to work but only where absolutely necessary in light of the current government instruction to 'Stay at Home'.

### **COVID-19 Department of Transport Update: Taxis and PHVs**

The DoT has released the following for information on the current situation regarding the continued working of taxis and private hire vehicles:

Taxis and private hire vehicles can continue to work. But the advice is absolutely clear - people should stay at home if possible. That is the way to save lives and protect our NHS. The public should avoid travel unless absolutely essential. The only reasons to leave our houses are set out in the government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

Clearly if absolutely necessary to travel by taxi or private hire vehicle, best efforts should be used to follow the guidance as far as is practically possible, including washing your hands as soon as you get home.

### **Critical Worker Status**

Taxi and private hire drivers should not generally be considered Critical Workers. Those undertaking Home to School transport or the transport of 'extremely vulnerable' people may be considered Critical Workers on a case-by-case basis. Critical Workers should also whenever possible make suitable arrangements for their children to stay at home; requests for children to attend school should be discussed with the school.

The following information may be useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-new-measures-to-protect-people-at-highest-risk-from-coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

### **Coronavirus Information**

You can sign up to get emails when the DoT change any coronavirus information on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/email-signup?link=/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The government advice for public transport sector workers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector>

East Lindsey District Council also has a useful section on the Council website:

<https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/Coronavirus>

### **Contacting the Licensing Team:**

In response to the COVID 19 Pandemic this Council's Head Office Reception at Tedder Hall is now closed until further notice.

As you can appreciate the Licensing Service is receiving an extremely high number of enquiries and so if your enquiry is not urgent please refrain from contacting the Licensing Service at this time.

Until further notice the Licensing Team are not longer contactable by direct telephone – but you can email enquiries to: [licensing@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Our Customer Services Team can be contacted on 01507 601111.

If your licence is due to expire before 1st July 2020 we will be providing information on this in due course and we will continue to review the situation on a rolling weekly basis.

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