



# Changes for taxi drivers and operators in each area

As varying policies and practices were adopted from former county and district councils, taxi drivers and operators in Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland will be impacted in different ways.

## Vehicles

Policy standard	Eden	South Lakeland	Barrow	W&F Policy	Explained changes under the W&F policy
<b>Emission Standard</b>	No policy	EURO 6	No policy	EURO 6	<p>From April 2026, all new vehicles that have not previously been licensed with the Council would need to comply with Euro 6 emissions standards.</p> <p>The council is proposing that the existing licensed vehicles would be given a grace period of up to three years to transition to the new requirement.</p> <p>Through the community conversation, the Council is seeking feedback from drivers on how the change may impact them and what would represent a fair and practical implementation period.</p>
<b>Vehicle age</b>	Maximum 7 years and no older than 10 years	Maximum 5 years on first licence. No older than 10 years Max 7 years for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles no older than 14 years.	No age policy	No age policy	<p>The proposed policy does not require drivers to replace vehicles simply because of their age. Instead, it focuses on environmental performance. Vehicles that meet Euro 6 standards can remain in service for longer, as they produce fewer harmful emissions. This approach aligns vehicle quality with the Council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality.</p>



Policy standard	Eden	South Lakeland	Barrow	W&F Policy	Explained changes under the W&F policy
<b>Testing Standards</b>	1 MOT and compliance test, with up to 2 tests per year depending on the age of the vehicle	MOT and vehicle inspection up to 3 times per year depending on the age of the vehicle	1 MOT per year and up to 3 taxi tests depending on the age of the vehicle	MOT and vehicle inspections undertaken by an approved Garage up to 3 times per year depending on the age and mileage of the vehicle	Vehicles will be MOT and compliance tested before a licence is first granted. After that, testing will take place annually or after 20,000 miles ( $\pm 1,000$ miles) for vehicles up to three years old; every six months or after 10,000 miles ( $\pm 1,000$ miles) for vehicles between three and eight years old; and every four months or after 7,000 miles ( $\pm 1,000$ miles) for vehicles more than eight years old — whichever comes first.
<b>Write off Categories</b>	No policy	Vehicles disposed of with an insurance category N may be licensed provided the vehicle has been repaired to a roadworthy condition.	Vehicles disposed of with an insurance category S or N may be licensed provided the vehicle has been repaired to a roadworthy condition.	No vehicle will be licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private hire vehicle that has been written off by an insurance company.	From April 2026, the Council will not license any vehicle that has been written off. Any new vehicle application will be refused if the vehicle has previously been declared a write-off or has been involved in an accident that resulted in it being categorised as such. Similarly, any currently licensed vehicle that becomes a write-off will not be re-licensed.

## Drivers

Policy standard	Eden	South Lakeland	Barrow	W&F Policy	Explained changes under the W&F policy
<b>Licence types</b>	Hackney Carriage / Private Hire	Hackney Carriage / Private Hire	Dual	Dual / Restricted Private Hire Driving Licence	<p>The policy proposes introducing a dual driver licence, enabling drivers to operate as both hackney carriage and private hire drivers under a single licence and for one fee. This represents a positive change, reducing costs and providing greater flexibility for licence holders.</p> <p>A restricted private hire driver licence will also be available at a lower fee, specifically designed for those undertaking school transport and social services contracts for the authority. This aims to address current driver shortages in these essential service areas.</p>
<b>DBS Check</b>	OW EDBS + RA EDBS for School or adult transport	OW EDBS + RA EDBS for School or adult transport	OW EDBS + RA EDBS for School or adult transport	Dual license will need an Other Workforce Enhanced DBS School or adult transport will need a Regulated Activity Enhanced DBS	<p>All applicants for a Dual Licences require an Enhanced DBS check under the Other workforce category. All applicants that wish to undertake home to school and social care transport contracts require an Enhanced DBS Checks under the child and/or adult workforce category to undertake regulated activity. Restricted PHD Licence will enable regulated activity only and will require Enhanced DBS check under child and/or adult workforce category.</p>
<b>Medical</b>	Every 3 years up to age 70 then annually	Every 3 years up to age 65, then annual	Every 3 years up to age 65, then annual	Every 3 years up to age 65, then annual	The only area changes seen are in Eden