



Glasgow City Council

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Report by Director of Legal and Administration

Contact: G McNaught Ext: 74546

**Item 4**

17th June 2026

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982  
PRIVATE HIRE CARS**

**Purpose of Report:**

To allow Members to consider undertaking a public consultation on a minimum boot size for private hire cars.

**Recommendations:**

Members are asked to:-

- (1) Note the terms of this report; and
- (2) Agree to instruct the Director of Legal and Administration to carry out a consultation on a minimum boot size for private hire cars and report back to the Committee with the findings of the consultation.

Ward No(s):

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No

Citywide:

consulted: Yes  No

## 1 Background

- 1.1 The Council regulates the licensing of taxi and private hire cars under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (“the **Act**”) and as part of this process the Council can implement policies relating to private hire cars.
- 1.2 In order for a vehicle to operate as a private hire car, applicants must ensure it is of a make and model approved by the Licensing Authority. The criteria for approval includes the following requirements which has been in place for many years:
- at least 4 doors;
  - 4 passenger seats (not including the driver);
  - each seat pad is 16" in width, or in the case of a bench seat, 48"/122cm;
  - steering wheel must be fitted to the offside of the vehicle at point of manufacture;
  - body of the vehicle must be of a fixed head type (not convertible);
  - anti lock braking system;
  - driver and front passenger air bags;
  - 3 point seat belts for all seats;
  - side impact bars or suitable equivalent;
  - no steps within the passenger compartment;
  - windows that permit the passengers and driver to be clearly viewed from outside the vehicle;
  - Not a re-registered vehicle; and
  - M1 Whole Vehicle type approval.

## 2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Council’s Taxi and Private Hire Car Inspection Centre officers have recently informed licensing that despite the criteria at paragraph 1.2 above being met by an applicant or licence holder (in relation to substitute vehicles), more vehicles are being used as private hire cars where the passenger’s comfort, and storage capacity could, in its officers’ views, be restricted.
- 2.2 A way to try to ensure that passenger comfort and storage capacity is not restricted or limited, would be to introduce a minimum boot size for private hire cars, to the criteria detailed above at paragraph 1.2.
- 2.3 Members are therefore asked to consider instructing the Director of Legal and Administration to carry out a consultation on creating additional criteria for private hire cars relating to a minimum boot size, and report back to the Committee with the findings of the consultation.

## 3 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	There would be no financial implications at this stage.
<i>Legal:</i>	The Committee is able determine policy relating to private hire cars under the 1982 Act.
<i>Personnel:</i>	None
<i>Procurement:</i>	None
<b>Council Strategic Plan:</b>	Not Applicable

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2025-29? Please specify.* Not applicable at this stage.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?* None at this stage.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.* None at this stage.

**Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:* Not Applicable.

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

**Privacy and Data  
Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report

No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

**4 Recommendations**

Members are asked to:-

- (1) Note the terms of this report; and
- (2) Agree to instruct the Director of Legal and Administration to carry out a consultation on a minimum boot size for private hire cars and report back to the Committee with the findings of the consultation.