

## **Changes for taxi and private hire licence applications from April 2022**

From 4th April 2022, the renewal of licences to drive taxis and private hire vehicles will only be issued if the person applying can show they have completed a tax check with HMRC. As decisions on applications for these licences are conditional on the tax check, this is known as 'tax conditionality'

The rules are changing if you're an individual, company or any type of partnership applying for a licence as a:

- taxi driver
- private hire driver
- private hire vehicle operator

If you make an application on or after 4 April 2022 you'll need to complete a Tax Check if you are:

- renewing a licence
- applying for the same type of licence you previously held, that ceased being valid less than a year ago
- applying for the same type of licence you already hold with another licensing authority

HMRC has developed the digital [tax check with HM Revenue and Customs \(HMRC\)](#) system for applicants to complete the tax check. During the check, applicants will be asked to provide information about their licensed activity and whether HMRC has been made aware of any income earned. Applicants will have an option to declare that, in their opinion, they do not have to be registered for tax. This may be because they are holding the licence but not using it to trade

Licensing bodies will use the HMRC digital service to confirm that the tax check has been completed. Licensing staff will not have access to personal data, the only role of the Licensing Authority is to confirm that the tax check has been completed.

You must carry out the tax check yourself. You cannot ask a tax agent or adviser to do this on your behalf. *If a tax check is not completed, the licensing authority will be unable to consider your application to renew your licence.*

You can find all the information you need on how to register and undertake your mandatory tax check at [GOV.UK - Changes for taxi, private hire and scrap metal applications from April 2022](#).

There is also a [GOV.UK - Tax Check Factsheet](#) to assist you with this process. The tax check **MUST** be undertaken before you submit your application for renewal.

You will not need to complete a tax check and you should follow the confirm your tax responsibilities guidance if you have:

- never held a licence of the same type before
- had a licence of the same type that ceased to be valid a year or more before making this application

First-time applicants must give confirmation on their application form that they are aware of the guidance about their tax obligations and have read and understood the requirements which can be viewed at [GOV.UK - Confirm your tax responsibilities when applying for a taxi, private hire or scrap metal licence](#)

***If you do not confirm that you are aware of the guidance, you will not be issued with a licence.***