

Appendix B

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Sections 46, 55, 55A, 55B, 55ZA, 56 & 62

Section 46

Vehicle, drivers' and operators' licenses

- (1) Except as authorised by this Part of this Act:
 - (a) no person being the proprietor of any vehicle, not being a hackney carriage (or London Cab) in respect of which a vehicle licence is in force, shall use or permit the same to be used in a controlled district as a private hire vehicle without having for such a vehicle a current licence under section 48 of this Act;
 - (b) no person shall in a controlled district act as driver of any private hire vehicle without having a current licence under section 51 of this Act;
 - (c) no person being the proprietor of a private hire vehicle licensed under this Part of this Act shall employ as the driver thereof for the purpose of nay hiring any person who does not have a current licence under the said section 51;
 - (d) no person shall in a controlled district operate any vehicle as a private hire vehicle without having a current licence under Section 55 of this Act;
 - (e) no person licensed under the said Section 55 shall in a controlled district operate any vehicle as a private hire vehicle:
 - (i) if for the vehicle a current licence under the said Section 48 is not in force; or
 - (ii) if the driver does not have a current licence under the said Section 51.
- (2) If any person knowingly contravenes the provisions of this section, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Section 55 of the 1976 Act (as amended)

Licensing of operators of private hire vehicles

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act, a district council shall, on receipt of an application from any person for the grant to that person of a licence to operate private hire vehicles grant to that person an operator's licence:

Provided that a district council shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied

- (a) that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an operator's licence; and
- (b) if the applicant is an individual, that the applicant is not disqualified by reason of the applicant's immigration status from operating a private hire vehicle.

(1A) In determining for the purposes of subsection (1) whether an applicant is disqualified by reason of the applicant's immigration status from operating a private hire vehicle, a district council must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

- (2) Subject to section 55ZA, every licence granted under this section shall remain in force for five years or for such lesser period, specified in the licence, as the district council think appropriate in the circumstances of the case.
- (3) A district council may attach to the grant of a licence under this section such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary.
- (4) Any applicant aggrieved by the refusal of a district council to grant an operator's licence under this section, or by any conditions attached to the grant of such a licence, may appeal to a magistrates' court.

Section 55A

Sub-contracting by operators

- (1) A person licensed under section 55 who has in a controlled district accepted a booking for a private hire vehicle may arrange for another person to provide a vehicle to carry out the booking if:
 - (a) the other person is licensed under section 55 in respect of the same controlled district and the sub-contracted booking is accepted in that district;
 - (b) the other person is licensed under section 55 in respect of another controlled district and the sub-contracted booking is accepted in that district;
 - (c) the other person is a London PHV operator and the sub-contracted booking is accepted at an operating centre in London; or
 - (d) the other person accepts the sub-contracted booking in Scotland.
- (2) It is immaterial for the purposes of subsection (1) whether or not sub-contracting is permitted by the contract between the person licensed under section 55 who accepted the booking and the person who made the booking.
- (3) Where a person licensed under section 55 in respect of a controlled district is also licensed under that section in respect of another controlled district, subsection (1) (so far as relating to paragraph (b) of that subsection) and section 55B(1) and (2) apply as if each licence were held by a separate person.
- (4) Where a person licensed under section 55 in respect of a controlled district is also a London PHV operator, subsection (1) (so far as relating to paragraph (c) of that subsection) and section 55B(1) and (2) apply as if the person holding the licence under section 55 and the London PHV operator were separate persons.
- (5) Where a person licensed under section 55 in respect of a controlled district also makes provision in the course of a business for the invitation or acceptance of bookings for a private hire car or taxi in Scotland, subsection (1) (so far as relating to paragraph (d) of that subsection) and section 55B(1) and (2) apply as if the person holding the licence under section 55 and the person making the provision in Scotland were separate persons.

In this subsection, “private hire car” and “taxi” have the same meaning as in sections 10 to 22 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

- (6) In this section, “London PHV operator” and “operating centre” have the same meaning as in the Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1998.

Section 55B

Sub-contracting by operators: criminal liability

(1) In this section:

“the first operator” means a person licensed under section 55 who has in a controlled district accepted a booking for a private hire vehicle and then made arrangements for another person to provide a vehicle to carry out the booking in accordance with section 55A(1);

“the second operator” means the person with whom the first operator made the arrangements (and, accordingly, the person who accepted the sub-contracted booking).

- (2) The first operator is not to be treated for the purposes of section 46(1)(e) as operating a private hire vehicle by virtue of having invited or accepted the booking.
- (3) The first operator is guilty of an offence if—
- (a) the second operator is a person mentioned in section 55A(1)(a) or (b),
 - (b) the second operator contravenes section 46(1)(e) in respect of the sub-contracted booking, and
 - (c) the first operator knew that the second operator would contravene section 46(1)(e) in respect of the booking.

Section 55ZA

Operators' Licences for Persons Subject to Immigration Control

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if—
 - (a) a licence under section 55 is to be granted to a person who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom for a limited period (“the leave period”);
 - (b) the person's leave has not been extended by virtue of section 3C of the Immigration Act 1971 (continuation of leave pending variation decision); and
 - (c) apart from subsection (2), the period for which the licence would have been in force would have ended after the end of the leave period.
- (2) The district council which grants the licence must specify a period in the licence as the period for which it remains in force; and that period must end at or before the end of the leave period.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if—
 - (a) a licence under section 55 is to be granted to a person who has been granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom for a limited period; and
 - (b) the person's leave has been extended by virtue of section 3C of the Immigration Act 1971 (continuation of leave pending variation decision).
- (4) The district council which grants the licence must specify a period in the licence as the period for which it remains in force; and that period must not exceed six months.
- (5) A licence under section 55 ceases to be in force if the person to whom it was granted becomes disqualified by reason of the person's immigration status from operating a private hire vehicle.
- (6) If a licence granted in accordance with subsection (2) or (4) expires, the person to whom it was granted must, within the period of 7 days beginning with the day after that on which it expired, return the licence to the district council which granted the licence.
- (7) If subsection (5) applies to a licence, the person to whom it was granted must, within the period of 7 days beginning with the day after the day on which the person first became disqualified, return it to the district council which granted the licence.

- (8) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (6) or (7) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction—
 - (a) to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale; and
 - (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a fine not exceeding ten pounds for each day during which an offence continues after conviction.
- (9) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument amend the amount for the time being specified in subsection (8)(b).
- (10) Regulations under subsection (9) may make transitional, transitory or saving provision.
- (11) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (9) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

Section 56

Operators of private hire vehicles

- (1) For the purposes of this Part of this Act every contract for the hire of a private hire vehicle licensed under this Part of this Act shall be deemed to be made with the operator who accepted the booking for that vehicle whether or not he himself provided the vehicle.
- (2) Every person to whom a licence in force under section 55 of this Act has been granted by a district council shall keep a record in such form as the council may, by condition attached to the grant of the licence, prescribe and shall enter therein, before the commencement of each journey, such particulars of every booking of a private hire vehicle invited or accepted by him, whether by accepting the same from the hirer or by undertaking it at the request of another operator, as the district council may by condition prescribe and shall produce such record on request to any authorised officer of the council or to any constable for inspection.
- (3) Every person to whom a licence in force under section 55 of this Act has been granted by a district council shall keep such records as the council may, by conditions attached to the grant of the licence, prescribe of the particulars of any private hire vehicle operated by him and shall produce the same on request to any authorised officer of the council or to any constable for inspection.
- (4) A person to whom a licence in force under section 55 of this Act has been granted by a district council shall produce the licence on request to any authorised officer of the council or any constable for inspection.
- (5) If any person without reasonable excuse contravenes the provisions of this section, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Section 62

Suspension and Revocation of Operators' Licences

- (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Part of this Act a district council may suspend or revoke, or (on application therefor under section 55 of this Act) refuse to renew an operator's licence on any of the following grounds:
 - (a) any offence under, or non-compliance with, the provisions of this Part of this Act;
 - (b) any conduct on the part of the operator which appears to the district council to render him unfit to hold an operator's licence;
 - (c) any material change since the licence was granted in any of the circumstances of the operator on the basis of which the licence was granted;
 - (ca) that the operator has since the grant of the licence been convicted of an immigration offence or required to pay an immigration penalty; or
 - (d) any other reasonable cause.
- (2) Where a district council suspend, revoke or refuse to renew any licence under this section they shall give to the operator notice of the grounds on which the licence has been suspended or revoked or on which they have refused to renew such licence within fourteen days of such suspension, revocation or refusal.
- (3) Any operator aggrieved by a decision of a district council under this section may appeal to a magistrates' court.