



**Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.**

# **Executive Vehicle/ Vehicle Plate exemption Policy 2021**

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## Conwy County Borough Council

### Regulatory and Housing Service (Public Protection)

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**Name of Policy:**

**Executive Vehicle /plate exemption policy.**

<b>Author / Custodian:</b>	Samantha Jones John Donnelly
<b>Date agreed and implemented:</b>	
<b>Agreed by:</b>	General Licensing Committee
<b>Frequency of Review:</b>	Annual review
<b>Review date:</b>	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment completed: (date)</b>	N/A
<b>Member involvement (if any)</b>	Cabinet Member/Licensing and Regulation Committee
<b>Internal or Public Domain:</b>	Internal/public

#### VERSION CONTROL:

Reference:	Status:	Authorised by:	Date:
001			
002			

FUNCTION	OFFICER
Processing of application	Licensing Officer
Rejection of application	Principal Licensing Officer/Senior Licensing Officer
Referral of application to Licensing Committee	Principal Licensing Officer/Senior Licensing Officer
Grant/renewal of application	Principal Licensing Officer/Senior Licensing Officer
Refusal of application	Head of Service / General Licensing and Regulation

## 1. Purpose

A number of private hire operators, manage or operate specialist vehicles for specific contracts or clients, with many referring to such operations as executive or chauffeur services and vehicles.

Such vehicles clearly fall within the present private hire legislation and as such the operator driver and vehicle should appropriately licensed.

Such vehicles may apply for an exemption from displaying both statutory and policy defined licence plates and livery.

This policy sets out the requirements expected by Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) in order to apply for an exemption and allow vehicles to be deemed as Executive Private Hire.

## 2. Legislation

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

## 3. CCBC Definition of Executive Hire

Because there is no legal definition of 'Executive Hire', we have referred to the dictionary definition of 'executive' as an aid to interpretation.

The Oxford English Dictionary gives this definition: "EXECUTIVE"

A person with senior managerial responsibility in a business organisation

## 4. Vehicle Specification

The average consumer may envisage an executive to travel in a prestige vehicle being of materially higher specification than a standard vehicle. Examples of vehicle types perceived to be prestige are vehicles that fall within the executive class of brands such as Mercedes, BMW, Audi, Jaguar and Lexus etc.

However, we do not wish to form a prescriptive list of acceptable vehicles or restrict the types of vehicles which may be deemed to hold prestige status. Therefore CCBC have approved a general criteria:

Considerations as to whether the vehicle Marque, is generally classed as or considered an executive vehicles includes such as, reputation, specification, appearance, perception and superior comfort levels. In addition, the following may be indicative (but not conclusive) that a vehicle is an executive vehicle and that the exemption may be appropriate:

1. Engine size of 2000/hybrid or electric equivalent (the Authority actively encourages and will prioritise applications from electric or hybrid vehicles, that meet the requirements of this policy).

2. Each seat is of adequate dimension and permits direct access into and out of the side doors of the vehicle without the need to move, remove or fold down any seat.

*Applications for any vehicles with more than four passengers' seats will be considered on individual merit, but will only be only licensed for the number of passengers who in the opinion of the inspecting officer can sit comfortably and in such a manner that the average consumer believes an executive vehicle should afford.)*

3. The original list price of any vehicle is a minimum of £25,000 in spite of its age on application

4. The vehicle has a minimum specification of air conditioning/climate control to front and rear seats, all electric windows, central locking and suitable front and rear headrests for each individual passenger.

5. Vehicles will need to fulfil the current age requirements for private hire vehicles

## **5. Drivers**

1. Drivers must hold a Conwy private hire licence or a Conwy hackney carriage licence.

2. A dress code commensurate with executive work is required. Applicants must provide details of the dress code (suit/jacket or equivalent) which the operator(s) for whom they work require them to adhere to. Dress code must be followed at all times when the vehicle is exempt from displaying standard private hire plates (relating to executive work).

3. The driver must have in their possession at all times while driving, their Conwy hackney or private hire drivers licence.

*(There is no requirement to display the licence).*

## **6. Applications**

1. All applications for executive private hire vehicle must be made via CBBC online portal/website.

2. To ensure consistency and ensure the highest standards where practical and before grant all vehicles must be inspected by the designated licensing officer.

## **7. Delegation**

Where Licensing Officers have delegated powers to grant licences, they will utilise these guidelines when making a decision to grant a licence. In all other cases applications for licences will be referred to the General Licensing Committee. Whilst officers and the Committee will have regard to the guidelines contained in the policy, each case will be considered on its individual merits and, where the circumstances demand, the committee/officer may depart from the guidelines (details of such circumstances must be recorded and held with the application/renewal).

## **8 General**

1. Executive private hire vehicles will be exempt from displaying standard private hire door and rear plates, but will be issued with a discreet (gold) executive hire plate which must be displayed on the rear of the vehicle.
2. No livery or advertisements will be allowed on executive vehicles other than discreet branding, company logo, contact details on the rear of vehicle should the operator wish.
3. Executive plated vehicles will be prohibited from carrying any form off school contract with regard to the transport of children.
4. Any bookings for the undertaking of a journey in an exempt vehicle must be made by way of a written contract. Such contracts must be in place for no less than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the journey.
5. Any breach of the Exempt Vehicle conditions may result in the vehicle having its exempt status withdrawn, from which point, assuming it continues to be used as a Private Hire Vehicle, the vehicle will be required to display the current standard private hire rear and door plates.