

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and
Places
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Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council

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4 January 2021

Dear Baroness Vere of Norbiton,

TAXI & PHV LICENSING – USE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE REVOCATIONS AND REFUSALS (NR3)

Thank you for your letter of 11 December relating to the use of the national register of taxi and private hire licence revocations and refusals (NR3).

We welcomed the introduction of the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards earlier this year; these standards are referred to when making licensing decisions. We are also in the process of renewing our licensing policy for hackney carriage and private hire to incorporate these standards, amongst other changes, and the new policy should be formally adopted in the first half of 2021 following the consultation and committee stages.

We are also keen to use NR3 as we appreciate the importance of sharing information with relevant authorities to be able to make informed licensing decisions. Work has already begun on this, with a new GDPR privacy notice being produced to inform all new applicants that we will be sharing information with other licensing authorities via NR3. In the New Year, officers will be writing to all drivers on our licensing database to inform them of this, and once this has been completed the council will be in a position to commence use of NR3.

For several years now, all the licensing authorities across Oxfordshire have shared information relating to hackney carriage and private hire applicants, which mirrors the principles of NR3, whereby the details of any applicant who has their application refused or licence revoked are entered onto a register which is shared with the other licensing authorities to refer to when reviewing new and renewal applications. In addition to this, where an application is received from an applicant who lives outside of our district, a request for personal information under the Data Protection Act 2018 is sent to the licensing authority where the applicant resides to seek information to will assist with our determination relating to the 'fit and proper' test.

I trust that this reassures you that work is being undertaken to implement NR3, and that in the meantime other safeguards are in place to protect the users of taxi and private hire services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Smith', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council