



Department
for Transport

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
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23 March 2022

Dear Council Leader,

Use of the National Register for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Refusals and Revocations (NR3)

I wrote to your authority in December 2020 encouraging you to use the National Register for Refusals and Revocations (NR3). I receive monthly updates on which licensing authorities are actively using NR3 from the National Anti-Fraud Network who own the database.

The usage statistics I received for 2021 show that your council did not use NR3 at all during the year, despite having access to the database. It is vital that all licensing authorities fulfil their duty to protect the public. Using NR3 provides a benefit not just to your residents but to all. Many authorities are regularly recording their decisions on the database to help inform your authority and others of any drivers who have already had their licence refused or revoked.

I urge you to act promptly to actively use NR3 to ensure unsuitable applicants are refused entry to, and removed from, the sector.

For the system to work effectively, your local authority should:

1. search the database for every application for a new taxi or private hire vehicle driver's licence or renewal of a licence. This ensures licences you grant are with full knowledge of any previous adverse licensing history; and
2. record all refusals and revocations onto the database. This process helps to inform all authorities of any drivers that have already been refused or revoked a licence.

The Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill is being considered in the House of Lords. The Bill would allow the Secretary of State to mandate licensing authorities to use a database for the recording of

suspensions, refusals and revocations relating to safeguarding and road safety concerns. I expect that the Bill will pass by the end of April. Authorities who change their working practices now will not have to do so later.

Utilising NR3 to its fullest will mitigate the risk of harm posed to the travelling public. I will continue to monitor your usage and hope to see that NR3 is used consistently by your licensing authority soon.

I also ask that your local authority responds to [this survey](#) by 8 April 2022 to confirm when you will start using the database consistently.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON