

57333

Request for the following recorded information relating to the training requirements for licensed taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) drivers within your authority.

For the purposes of this request, please include both Hackney carriage (taxi) and private hire vehicle (PHV) drivers, where data is available.

Please provide, where held, the following information:

The total number of licensed taxi and PHV drivers registered with your authority in each of the past five financial years (2019/20 to 2023/24 inclusive).

If possible, please provide a breakdown of driver numbers by licence type (e.g. Hackney carriage, PHV, dual badge) for each year.

Number of licensed drivers	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Taxi Drivers	2,934	2,799	2,606	2,480	2,289
PHC Drivers	3,153	3,250	2,677	2,763	3,157
Total	6,087	6,049	5,283	5,243	5,446

Taxi and PHC driver licence data is also available on the Council's [public register](#).

Whether your authority currently requires licensed taxi and/or PHV drivers to complete safeguarding training as part of their initial licence application and/or renewal.

Yes.

Is this training delivered face-to-face, online, or both.

Training is provided by the Council as part of [Foundation Course](#) (2-day online course followed by an in-person exam) which drivers are required to complete before the grant of a new licence. The course covers basic level of safeguarding, Equality Act, Duty of Care subjects.

Further training is provided by the Council as part of [Intermediate Training Course](#) (3-days in person) which is mandatory for existing Taxi and PHC drivers. The course offers more detailed coverage of discrimination, safeguarding, disabilities, duty of care, with a specific Public Protection session lasting 90mins.

From January 2027, all drivers who completed Intermediate training will be required to attend a 1-day Refresher course every 3 years with additional and updated information on safeguarding and disability awareness.

Whether your authority currently requires licensed taxi and/or PHV drivers to complete disability awareness training as part of their initial licence application and/or renewal.

Yes.

Is this training delivered face-to-face, online, or both.

Training is provided by the Council as part of [Foundation Course](#) (2-day online course followed by an in-person exam) which drivers are required to complete before the grant of a

new licence. The course covers basic level of safeguarding, Equality Act, Duty of Care subjects. As of Summer 2025, practical wheelchair training (held in person) is also provided to all drivers attending the [Topographical Assessment](#) mandatory for new Taxi Driver licence applicants.

Further training is provided by the Council as part of [Intermediate Training Course](#) (3-days in person) which is mandatory for existing Taxi and PHC drivers. The course contains modules on safeguarding and disability awareness in relation to the Equality Act 2010, including practical wheelchair training and First Aid.

From January 2027, all drivers who completed Intermediate Training will be required to attend a 1-day Refresher course every 3 years with additional and contemporaneous information on safeguarding and disability awareness.

The total number of drivers who completed each type of training (safeguarding and/or disability awareness) in each of the past five financial years (2019/20 to 2023/24 inclusive).

This information is available as part of report to the Council's Regulatory Committee on 21 June 2024: [Licensing Training: Taxi and Private Hire Drivers](#)

The total annual spend by your authority on driver safeguarding and/or disability awareness training (if applicable) in each of the past five financial years. If training is paid for directly by drivers, please confirm this.

The abovementioned mandatory training is provided by the Council at a fee paid by the driver, the fees are published on the Council's website: [Licences and permits applications – The City of Edinburgh Council](#). The current fees have been set by the Council on [20 February 2025](#) as part of its budget setting process.

Licence application fees and training fees are calculated to offset the cost of the licensing system – further information is available as part of reports to Regulatory Committee on [29 September 2025](#) (Licensing Income 2023/24 and 2024/25), [7 August 2023](#) (Licensing Income 2022/23) and [6 February 2023](#) (Licensing Income 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22).

If safeguarding or disability training is required, how frequently must drivers repeat or renew this training (e.g. every three years, one-off only, at each renewal)?

As of November 2020, training is required for all new applicants for a Taxi or PHC driver licence (Foundation level). As of November 2023, a one-off Intermediate Training Course must be completed by all existing drivers renewing their licence. Drivers who have completed Intermediate Training will be required to undertake a Refresher course every three years as of January 2027.

Does your authority maintain a central record of completed driver training (safeguarding/disability), or are drivers required to submit their own evidence?

The Council's Licensing Service maintains a record of driver training (within the Training School records as well as individual licence records).

Is your authority's current taxi/PHV driver training policy or guidance publicly available online? If so, please provide a link or URL.

The Council's policy with regard to driver training can be found in the report to the Council's Regulatory Committee on [21 June 2024](#) and reports referenced within.

Course information for prospective and existing drivers can be found on the Council's webpages: [Licences and permits applications – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

Does your authority provide any support or alternatives for drivers with low digital literacy, disabilities, or other accessibility needs when completing mandatory training?

Assistance is provided by the Council's Licensing Training Officers on a case-by-case basis if additional support requirements are declared by drivers. This is also the case where physical disabilities are declared, however due to the nature of the profession, such instances are less frequent.