

**With effect from 1 April 2018, all taxi and private hire drivers licensed by Scottish Borders Council will need to provide evidence from a medically qualified professional that they are fit to carry out the duties of a licensed driver.**

**This means that written evidence a driver has been assessed to the Group 2 standard required by DVLA is essential before a licence will be issued.**

**In order to assist applicants, the undernoted may be useful. These are questions and answers most commonly asked by drivers. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Licensing Unit.**

Q. Why has the Council introduced a medical requirement for its drivers?

A. The licensing requirement places a duty on the Council to ensure the safety of the public. The Council has adopted a Policy which requires all of its licensed drivers to provide evidence that they are medically fit to carry out the duties of a taxi or private hire driver service to the public. Taxi and private hire drivers are not restricted by working time regulations in the same way as lorry and bus drivers. Therefore, taxi and private hire drivers could conceivably work for periods well in excess of those regulations. In the interests of public safety it is extremely important that they are medically fit.

Q. What evidence does the Council need me to provide?

A. The Council requires a statement from your GP or other medically qualified professional that your fitness has been assessed to a standard equivalent to the Group 2 standard required by DVLA.

Q. When do I need to submit evidence of my medical fitness?

A. Evidence of your medical fitness as at the date of your grant or renewal application is required.

Q. Will my application be processed if I'm not able to submit evidence of my medical fitness when I lodge my application?

A. Yes, but a licence won't be issued until you have provided it.

Q. What if I'm renewing my licence? Will I be able to keep driving if I've not been able to provide evidence of my medical fitness before my licence expires?

A. As long as you submit your renewal application before the date it expires, you will be able to continue driving while your application is assessed.

Q. Where will I be able to obtain evidence of my medical fitness?

A. Your own GP may be able to. If that is not the case, details of private providers are available from the Licensing Unit. If you go to a private provider, we would advise you to take a copy of your medical notes with you. You can request them direct from your own GP.

Q. What if my DVLA Driving Licence entitles me to drive a HGV or PSV for which I've already been assessed to Group 2 standard fitness?

A. That is sufficient to confirm you are medically fit to drive a taxi or private hire vehicle and will not need to provide any further evidence.

Q. Do I have to let the Council see all the assessment papers used by my GP or private provider to confirm I am medically fit to drive?

A. No. The Council has a style form of wording which your GP or other medically qualified professional can sign for you to submit as evidence that you have been assessed to the DVLA Group 2 standard of fitness. A copy pro forma statement is available from the Licensing Unit.

Q. What will happen if I'm not able to provide evidence of my medical fitness?

A. Because your application cannot be granted by Council Officers without evidence of your medical fitness, it will need to be considered at a meeting of the Civic Government Licensing Committee. The Committee is made up of 9 Scottish Borders Councillors and you will be invited to attend a hearing to discuss your application before a decision is made.

Q. How often will I have to provide evidence of my medical fitness?

A. This will depend on your age. The Council has adopted the DVLA categories for assessment and will apply these to your individual circumstances for annual renewals after you have provided evidence of your medical fitness as follows:

- a) From the age of 18 and thereafter reassessed at age 45
- b) From age 45 onwards reassessed on a five year basis
- c) From age 65 to be reassessed on an annual basis

Q. Who do I contact if I need more information or am unsure of what I need to do to provide evidence of my medical fitness?

A. You should contact the Licensing Unit by e-mail [liquorandlicensing@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:liquorandlicensing@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk) or by telephone 01835 826662 or 01835 825198. Alternatively you can write to:-

Licensing Unit  
Regulatory Services - Legal and Licensing  
Scottish Borders Council  
Council Headquarters  
Newtown St Boswells  
Melrose TD6 0SA