



Race Week 2025 - Debrief

We hope all our drivers had a safe, profitable, and successful Race Week, and we thank you all for your compliance and efforts to help keep the public safe.

For the Licensing Team, Race Week proved to be just as busy as we anticipated, with daily checks performed on the taxi and private hire trade (with a focus on out-of-town vehicles); licensed premises; street traders; sexual entertainment venues; free printed matter; and charitable collections. A list of the actions taken by the Licensing Team are summarised below:

Taxi and private hire

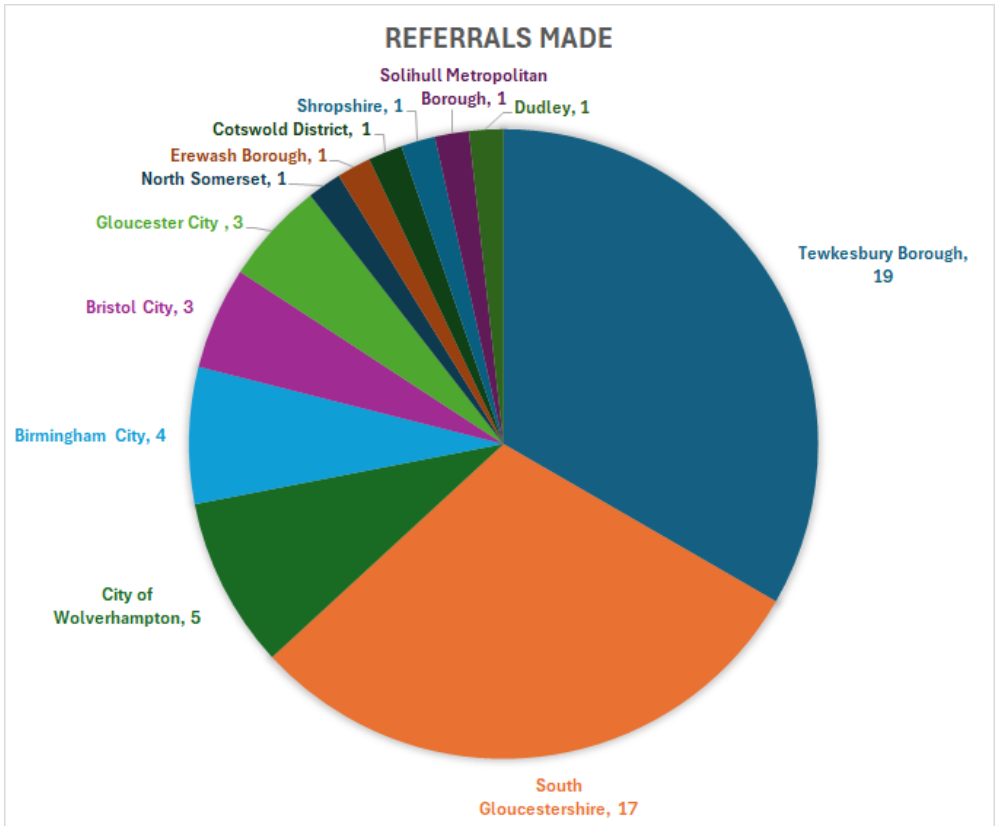
Our focus for the duration of the week was on the out-of-town taxi and private hire trade. We made a total of 57 referrals to 12 different local authorities and spoke to 100s of drivers.

We are being kept informed of the outcome of the referrals, and know a variety of action is being taken by each proprietor's home authority, ranging from advice, to written warnings, to licence reviews in front of committee.

We, and our partner agencies, are also investigating some of these cases further, which will likely result in more serious action:

- A Cotswold District private hire driver who admitted they had picked up passengers without a booking.
- A Birmingham City driver being investigated for an illegal pick up.
- 2 Tewkesbury Borough drivers who could not produce satisfactory booking records having picked up passengers.

For our own trade, we issued a total of 12 strikes. There are 3 other cases which are ongoing. These include a private hire driver who, during a vehicle inspection with the Taxi Compliance Officer from Avon and Somerset Police, was found to be working with both front tyres below the legal limit of 1.6mm. Points and a fine were issued to the driver, and they have recently had their [driver licence revoked by Cheltenham Borough Council's Licensing Miscellaneous Sub-Committee](#).



Other licensing checks

In addition to our checks on the taxi and private hire trade, which formed the bulk of our work, we took action on the following:

- 2 unlicensed free printed matter distributors, who were subsequently licensed over the course of the event.
- 10 advice letters distributed to ensure compliance with street trading legislation.
- 1 advice letter distributed to ensure compliance with charitable collection legislation.
- 1 reactive visit following complaints about the management of an external area of a premises.
- 1 letter distributed to provide advice about the display of tables and chairs.
- 1 pedlar referred to Counter Fraud for illegal street trading.

These checks are on top of the numerous visits undertaken to inspect night-time economy premises; SIA door staff; and the 2 licensed (and 2 pop-up) sexual entertainment venues.

Consultation on proposals to amend the Authority's Licensing Policy

Time is running out to contribute to our consultation on proposals to amend our taxi and private hire policy.

Please respond and let us know whether you agree or disagree with our proposals. If adopted, this policy will affect every single licence holder, so it is important you have your say.

If you submitted comments during the 2024 consultation, please ensure that you also respond to this consultation for your comments to be taken into consideration.

The consultation will close at 00:00 on Monday 14 April. You can view and to respond to it [on our website](#).

If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk and we will be happy to assist you.

Hackney carriage fares - meter certificates

If you are a hackney carriage driver who wishes to make use of the new fares, you need to have submitted your meter certificate to the department before you can do so.

There is a deadline of **13 April 2025** for any outstanding certificates to be provided. Please ensure you forward your certificate onto the department before this date to prevent any enforcement action being taken.

WAV list - driver’s contact details

Cheltenham Borough Council [publishes contact details for drivers who are WAV proprietors](#) for use by members of the public who require a wheelchair accessible taxi. If you drive a WAV, and want to advertise your details for use by members of the public, please let us know and we can update our website accordingly.

Consultation on adoption of DfT model taxi byelaws

We have just begun consulting on adoption of the DfT model taxi byelaws and want to hear your views.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 does not permit a local authority to attach conditions to a hackney carriage driver licence. Instead, the only means of conditioning a hackney carriage driver’s licence is by way of bylaws made under Section 68 of the Town Police Clauses Act of 1847 and Section 171 of the Public Health Act 1975.

Cheltenham Borough Council’s current byelaws date back to March 2012 and, therefore, require updating. We are proposing to adopt the DfT model taxi byelaws to replace these.

This consultation lasts for 12 weeks and closes at 00.00am on 30 June (12 weeks). You can respond via our online, or downloadable, consultation form available [on our website](#).

We would encourage all drivers to respond to the proposals so we can take your views into account.

Train station rank

We wish to remind all drivers that, regardless of where you are working, the train station included, you still need to comply with the conditions set by the Borough Council. It is immaterial that this is a private rank on private property.

Vehicles must always:

- Have their licence plates affixed to their vehicle
- Have their driver badges on display in the vehicle and on their person
- Have the vehicle badges clearly displayed in the front windscreen of the vehicle

Plying for hire?

If you think that a private hire is plying for hire **please do not approach the driver**, especially if they have members of the public on board. Please, if possible, take a photograph of the vehicle and email this to licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk with the time, date, and location of the incident.

We have had reports of drivers having heated conversations whilst members of the public are in vehicles. This is not only unprofessional but frightens the passengers. This is not acceptable.

Swanbrook MOT availability

We have been asked to alert drivers that Swanbrook, one of the approved vehicle testing centres for hackney carriage and private hire MOT and fitness tests, have a current waiting time of around 4 weeks before they have any availability.

Drivers who require MOT and fitness tests in the next three months are advised to contact Swanbrook (01452 712386) now to make a booking. Ubico are also able to carry out the tests, and can be contacted on 01242 387780.

Upcoming Safeguarding and Local Knowledge Test Dates

We continue to add dates to both our safeguarding sessions and Local Knowledge Tests (LKTs). The following are available to book via [our online form](#):

Safeguarding Dates	Local Knowledge Test Dates
13 May 2025	7 May 2025
18 June 2025	
6 August 2025	

All sessions are held at the Municipal Offices. Safeguarding sessions are scheduled to begin at 10:15am with a duration of two and half hours. LKTs begin at 11:00am, and last for approximately one and a half hours.

Licensing Contact Details

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