Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request 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:

1. 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).

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

2. 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.

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

3. 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.

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

4. 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).

5. 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.

6. 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)?

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

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

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

Response

1. We are only able to provide 'live' numbers, as of today:

   173 x Hackney Carriage Drivers
   965 x Private Hire Drivers

2. Yes. Face to Face.

3. Yes. Face to Face.

4. 2019/20 = 115
   2020/21 = 0
   2021/22 = 0
   2022/23 = 0
   2023/24 = 281
   2024/25 = 81
   2025 to date = 29

   During 2020 to 2023 the training was paused due to COVID.

5. The training is delivered in house by Council Officers. There is therefore no external costs.

6. Currently a one off.

7. We maintain a central record.

8. Not currently.

10. Upon request, this would be considered on a case-by-case basis. To date we have not received any requests for additional support.