



## Private Hire Regulations – English Language Requirement Update

This Notice provides an update on the English language requirement further to information provided in Notice 10/17.

In 2016, Transport for London (TfL) made a number of regulatory changes to raise standards in London's private hire industry and improve safety and convenience for customers.

This included the introduction of an English language requirement. This applies to new applicants or those seeking to renew their private hire driver's licence, who must demonstrate that they can communicate in English at the appropriate level for speaking, listening, reading and writing.

The English language requirement was subject to a legal challenge which has now been withdrawn.

Previously, we stated that anyone whose application for a new or renewal private hire driver's licence was received on or after 14 October 2016 had until 16 July 2018 to provide evidence that they comply with the requirement to TfL.

We have now extended the deadline from 16 July 2018 to **30 April 2019**.

After listening to the private hire industry we are now considering revising the English language assessment so that it reflects areas specifically relevant to the role of a private hire driver. Any changes would remain at Level B1 standard. We are also considering any improvements to the document verification process to maintain a robust and effective means of assessing language capability in the interests of public safety.

The extension of the deadline will give drivers more time to demonstrate that they meet the standard.

Anyone applying for a new licence, or seeking to renew their licence, on or after 30 April 2019 will need to satisfy the English language requirement **before** a licence will be granted.

If you need further information please email us at [tph.enquiries@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:tph.enquiries@tfl.gov.uk) or call our Licensing Team on 0343 222 4444 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the signature of the Mayor of London.

Graham Robinson

**Interim General Manager  
London Taxi and Private Hire  
Transport for London**

**22 May 2018**

*For previous Notices and additional licensing information, please visit [tfl.gov.uk/tph](https://tfl.gov.uk/tph)*