



HMRC Hidden Economy Conditionality

This Notice contains important information regarding the upcoming HMRC Hidden Economy Conditionality (tax check requirements) for new and renewal taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) driver and PHV operator applications.

From 4 April 2022, new tax checks will apply to **all** taxi and private hire drivers, as well as PHV operators. As a result, any application received from this date will be subject to tax checks and applications without this information cannot be granted.

HMRC have produced a [webinar which is available on YouTube](#) outlining the changes which licensees may find useful.

New taxi and private hire driver and private hire operator applications

First-time applicants for a taxi or private hire driver licence or private hire operator licence must give confirmation as part of their application that they are aware of the HMRC guidance about their tax obligations. The guidance can be found here:

- PAYE information: www.gov.uk/income-tax/how-you-pay-income-tax
- Registering for Self-Assessment: www.gov.uk/register-for-self-assessment
- Corporation Tax information: www.gov.uk/corporation-tax

Application forms now include a declaration for applicants to confirm that they are aware of their obligations to pay any tax that may be due on income they earn from their licensed trade. Applications received on or from 4 April 2022 that do not include this signed declaration on their paper or online application will not be processed until it is provided.

Guidance is available on GOV.UK to help you understand your tax responsibilities:
www.gov.uk/guidance/confirm-your-tax-responsibilities-when-applying-for-a-taxi-private-hire-or-scrap-metal-licence

Renewal taxi and PHV driver and PHV operator applications

For all renewal applications a 9-character tax check code will be required.

If you already hold a taxi or PHV driver's licence with TfL or any other licensing authority, or have previously held such a licence that ceased to be valid in the last 12 months, you will be required to undergo an HMRC tax check as part of your application to ensure you have registered to pay the appropriate tax/taxes on income you earn from your licensed trade.

As part of your renewal application you will be asked to provide a unique 9-character tax check code from HMRC. To obtain your unique 9-character tax check code, you will need to have a GOV.UK Government Gateway ID and password, which is the same portal that you will use to submit your online tax return. You will need to provide the tax check code on your application.

For more information about Government Gateway and to set up an account, please visit the [GOV.UK website](http://www.gov.uk).

Guidance is available on GOV.UK to help you complete the tax check:
www.gov.uk/guidance/complete-a-tax-check-for-a-taxi-private-hire-or-scrap-metal-licence

If applicants are unable to complete the tax check online they can get help from HMRC – for example if they need information in a different format or need help filling in forms. They should visit GOV.UK and search 'Get help from HMRC if you need extra support'.

Please ensure you provide the correct tax check code for the type of licence being applied for, noting that a taxi and PHV driver licence application requires a different code to a PHV operator licence.

The HMRC tax check code service for renewal applicants is now available and it can be found at the bottom of the [‘HMRC Completing a tax check’](#) webpage.

Please be advised that each code will be valid for 120 days, after which time the code will expire.

Graham Robinson

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

7 March 2022

For previous Notices and additional licensing information, please visit tfl.gov.uk/tph