

## **PUBLICATION OF LIST OF DESIGNATED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES**

The Licensing Authority publishes the list of the designated wheelchair accessible vehicles on its website, in order to assist the public to know which Operator to contact in order to book a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

## **EQUALITY ACT 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 places duties on all drivers of licensed vehicles to:

- **Assist passengers in wheelchairs (if you drive a wheelchair accessible vehicle); and to**
- **Carry guide dogs / assistance dogs.**

These duties came into force in April 2017.

### **OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PASSENGERS IN WHEELCHAIRS**

Ashfield District Council maintains a "list" of designated Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (in accordance with S.167 of the 2010 Act).

As a consequence of a vehicle being on this "list", the following duties are placed on the drivers of these designated wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles (S.165 of the 2010 Act):

- **To carry the passenger whilst he/she is in a wheelchair;**
- **Not to make any additional charge for doing so;**
- **If the passenger chooses to sit in a passenger seat, to carry the wheelchair;**
- **To take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort; and**
- **To give the passenger such "mobility assistance" as is reasonably required.**

## **GUIDE DOGS & ASSISTANCE DOGS**

Duties are also placed on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers when driving licensed vehicles to carry guide dogs and other assistance dogs under the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

## **EXEMPTION NOTICES**

The Equality Act 2010 allows for exemptions on medical grounds regarding drivers providing mobility assistance to passengers in wheelchairs, and from carrying guide dogs / assistance dogs, if the driver's health condition makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for him or her to comply with these duties.

It is the responsibility of the driver who requires an exemption to apply for one from the Licensing Authority by way of our prescribed "Medical Exemption" application form (available from our offices).

When submitting your completed form, you will be required to provide evidence from your Medical Practitioner supporting your application and substantiating the medical reasons applicable to your request.

If an "Exemption" notice is granted by the Licensing Authority, the driver must display this Notice in the Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle.

Any "Exemption" notice issued by the Licensing Authority must be reapplied for at the time that the driver seeks to renew his or her Hackney Carriage & Private Hire (Dual) Driver Licence.