



Working in partnership with



Temporary Protective Screens for Licensed Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles

North Tyneside Council's Licensing Service recognises the impact Covid-19 having on the hackney carriage and private hire trade. We will work with the trade to enable licensed drivers to safely continue working and will assist where possible to mitigate the risk of infection for drivers and passengers.

In response to requests from the trade, the Council will permit, as a temporary measure, the installation of a protective screen. The screen should be fitted behind the driver and front passenger seat (between the rear passenger compartment and the driver). It is recommended that drivers insist all rear seated passengers wear the seatbelts provided.

However, the protective screen:

- **Must** comply with relevant safety, UK and European Community (EC) legislation.
- **Must** be clear and transparent;
- **Must** only be fitted across the rear of both front seats of a vehicle creating a partition between the front and rear seats;
- **Must not** be permanently installed in the vehicle;
- **Must not** have a solid frame to the screen;
- **Must only** be fitted by way of temporary fixings, which can be removed from the vehicle when the screens are no longer permitted.
- **Must** be fitted in such a way so as to not affect the structural integrity of the vehicle, or interfere with any manufacturer fitted safety equipment e.g. airbags;
- **Must not** wrap around the driver seat and create a partition between the two front seats, in addition to the rear seating area.
- **Must** be cleaned with a suitable anti-bacterial substance at the conclusion of each fare

Process to be followed when wishing to fit a temporary screen

If any proprietor or driver wishes to fit a temporary protective screen in their vehicle, they **MUST**:

- Notify the Authority of their intention to fit a protective screen by emailing taxi.licensing@northtyneside.gov.uk together with;
- A written undertaking confirming that fitting the protective screen will not result in their insurer refusing to cover the vehicle, and;
- An agreement to remove the protective screen within a maximum of **21 days** after the current social distancing restrictions relating to Covid-19 have been removed.