

Taxi Consultative Committee Meeting

20 July, 2016

Concern over DBS disclosures

6th July 2016

Drivers licensed by this council to drive hackney carriage and private hire vehicles are required to submit a valid Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check on application and then every three years. Such checks can be transferred from other authorities if they were obtained for a similar purpose, are less than three months old and can be verified to the council's satisfaction.

It has come to our notice that DBS checks obtained via the county council for school contract work are not to the same security standard as CBC checks as information on 'barred lists' is not being requested. DBS barred lists cover individuals who are found to be unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults but may not have been convicted of an offence. I have spoken with the county's DBS manager, Matt Edinboro, who told me their policy was determined by cabinet some time ago and assumes that licensing authorities will obtain the information on barred lists.

The conveying of vulnerable adults or children is a regulated activity under the DBS rules.

As a result, we will be advising drivers that it is no longer possible to transfer DBS checks from the county council. This will cause consternation as the county council pays for DBS checks obtained for school contract work whereas the cost of a CBC licensing DBS is borne by the driver themselves.