



Private Hire Regulations – English Language Requirement Update

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.

Some of these regulatory changes, including the English language requirement, have been subject to a legal challenge. This Notice provides an update on the current English language arrangements in light of the litigation, and replaces the advice provided on English language in [Notice 06/17](#).

English Language Requirement

On 3 March 2017 the High Court upheld the English language requirement, which requires applicants for either a new or renewal private hire driver's licence to demonstrate that they can communicate in English at the appropriate level for speaking, listening, reading and writing.

However, the High Court's judgement is the subject of an appeal. The Court of Appeal has decided to hear the appeal and has now confirmed that the appeal hearing will take place from 20 February 2018.

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 30 September 2017 to provide evidence of their ability to comply with the requirement to TfL (see [Notice 05/17](#)). We have now extended the deadline from 30 September 2017 to 16 July 2018.

It remains the case that current licence holders whose application for a private hire driver's licence was received by TfL before 14 October 2016 will need to satisfy the English language requirement only at the point where they apply to renew their licence (unless this falls before 16 July 2018, in which case they have until 16 July 2018 to satisfy the English language requirement).

If you need advice about your private hire licence or licence application in light of the changes explained above, please email us at tph.enquiries@tfl.gov.uk or call our Licensing Team on 0343 222 4444 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm).



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