



Walsall
Council

LICENSING NEWSLETTER

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PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR UP TO DATE EMAIL ADDRESS AND MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER – IF WE DON'T YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE ANY IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS AND YOUR APPLICATIONS MAY BE DELAYED

Vehicle Licence Applications - Important Reminder

Vehicle licence applications should be made online at least 5 days BEFORE the MOT Test. To make the process quicker and easier if you have submitted your application before the test and it is all correct, you can collect your new plates at the Taxi Licensing Office which is next to the MOT Garage once your vehicle has passed the MOT. There is no need to make appointments or attend any other location. If you cannot submit your application BEFORE the MOT then as per the vehicle licence conditions you must submit your application within 5 days of the MOT. If you fail to submit the application within 5 days you will be required to pass another MOT test before the application will be processed.

Driver licence Document checks – Important Reminder

If you have applied for a Private hire/Hackney carriage driver licence then you will be required to attend an appointment so your documents can be validated for the DBS and Right to Work checks. You will receive notification of the appointment date, time and location by email or text. You must bring along your Passport and DVLA photocard and any further identification documents you have provided on your application. If you are renewing your licence you must bring your old badge to the appointment as we cannot issue a new one without the return of your old ID.

Response time for emails received by Licensing

Please be advised the Licensing Service email address is only monitored between the days and times; **Monday to Thursday - 8.45am – 5.15pm Friday - 8.45am - 4.45pm** not 24/7.

It is not monitored at the weekend. If you send any emails or apply online outside of the hours as above we will respond in due course during office hours. On many occasions we have received applications on Friday evening with the expectation that the plates will be ready for collection on Monday. This is not possible at all however we will aim to respond to enquiries within 5 working days.

Please ensure you submit your renewal applications at least 5 days before your MOT. Applications received by the Licensing Authority at least 5 working days before the vehicle test will be processed if complete before the MOT Test. Incomplete applications will take longer and may result in licences not being issued before expiry.

Vehicle Interim Tests

Vehicles that are over 3 years old from the date of first registration are required to be tested by the council's garage twice a year. Failure to comply with the Vehicle licence condition may result in the vehicle licence being suspended. You must ensure that a 6 monthly inspection has been carried out and the vehicle has passed the test to ensure compliance.

Online Applications

When renewing or applying for a licence, please ensure you allow plenty of time for your application to be processed. If your licence has expired you will not be able to work as a licensed Driver or use your vehicle for work until the licences are issued.

Duplicate and Incorrect Payments

Please wherever possible do not make duplicate payments. Processing refunds is a lengthy process undertaken by the Council's Finance Department. Cheques have to be raised and collected for the refund – payments cannot just be refunded to the card that made the payment. If you have submitted an application, please contact taxilicensing@walsall.gov.uk **before** you make another application and submit another payment if you are not sure if the application or payment has gone through. We have had licence holders make up to 3 duplicate payments because they have thought a payment hasn't gone through.

Vehicle Licence Identification

Licence identification and licence plates remain the property of Walsall Council. You should ensure that the identification is returned to the Licensing Office on demand and in any event on expiry of the licence. Identification can be returned by post, at your risk, to Taxi Licensing Office, Walsall Council, Clean & Green Depot, 200 Pelsall Road, Brownhills, WS8 7EN or they can be posted by hand to the office. If you have applied to renew your vehicle licence an appointment will be arranged for exchange of plates. We will not give the new set until the old/expired plated are returned. If your licence is suspended or revoked you should also return your licence identification as above or as advised on the suspension/revocation notice within seven days.

First Aid Kits and Fire Extinguishers in licensed vehicles

A high number of licensed vehicles are failing the vehicle tests for either not having a first aid kit in the vehicle or having an inadequate kit with missing or expired items. It is a condition of your licence that you have a first aid kit and fire extinguisher. You can now purchase First Aid Kit's and Fire Extinguisher's from the MOT Depot at the time of your test for £20 each so no further appointments or tests need to be carried out – saving time and money re-attending. Please remember to check your First Aid kit and Fire Extinguisher before you attend to make sure the vehicle passes first time!



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MOT Depot Information

Changes to MOT appointment-

Any **cancellations** or **changes** made to your **MOT Booking** needs to be done **via email**, our email address is motdepot@walsall.gov.uk . **No amendments** will be made over the telephone. Please note that it is your responsibility to inform the MOT depot of any changes such as new ownership details, vehicles that have been involved in RTC, handing plates back, etc., if you fail to do so and miss your booked MOT appointment then you will need to pay the Failure to attend charge. If you amend or cancel your appointment you **MUST** give us a reason why before you make the required changes.

Failure to attend –

All vehicles who fail to attend their MOT appointment or cancel their MOT appointment with less than **24 hours' notice** will be charged the Failure to attend Fee which is £45.00. This **MUST** be paid before you book a new MOT appointment.

Please bear in mind that we have 1 receptionist in the MOT depot to answer calls, emails and deal with customers at the window. If you have tried to call the MOT depot and no-one has been able to answer please leave us a voicemail and we will contact you back as soon as possible.



Buying part worn tyres? – what you need to know



Knowing about and understanding tyre condition is very important. It's even more important when it comes to issues surrounding part-worn tyres.

What are part-worn tyres?

Part-worn tyres are in use every day. If you buy a second-hand vehicle and do not replace the tyres with a new set immediately you are, in effect, buying part-worn tyres.

But some tyres are sold as part-worn without the second-hand vehicle! It is not illegal to sell and fit these part-worn tyres.

The Tyre Industry Federation estimates around 5 million, or 10% of all tyres purchased in the UK are in the part-worn category. New tyres are manufactured to a very high standard and are designed to be safe down to the legal tread limit. Tyres removed from vehicles and re-sold with minimal tread wear are not immediately unsafe. However, there could be serious risks if there is an underlying issue with a second-hand tyre someone has bought. For more information from the DVSA click the following link [Buying part worn tyres what operators need to know](#)

Premises Licence Annual Fees

This is a reminder of all premises licence holders to ensure that your premises licence annual fee is paid on or before the due date on your annual fee invoice issued by the Licensing department.

So far in 2023, 93 premises have received suspension notices due to unpaid fees. The Licensing department and Community Protection are currently visiting these premises to ensure lawful.

Failure to pay your annual fee will result in the suspension of your licence. It is a criminal offence to carry on or attempt to carry on a licensable activity on or from any premises otherwise than under and in accordance with an authorisation, or knowingly allow a licensable activity to be so carried on. A person guilty of this offence is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding £20,000, or both



LGA case study: scrap metal licence plate initiative in Walsall

Context

Since the introduction of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, there has been a drop in the number of licence holders in Walsall by as much as three quarters. In addition, thefts of metal in the West Midlands hit a three year high in 2021. While the two issues may not be related, the leader of the council, Cllr Mike Bird, wanted to take action to tackle unlicensed scrap collectors.

Licence plate initiative

A new initiative has been introduced whereby licensed scrap metal collectors are provided with a bigger, more visible identification plate that can be placed on their collection vehicles. The council has allocated funding to provide these licence plates free of charge. The scheme is voluntary; however, it has proven popular with licensed collectors.

The new licence plates have helped residents across the borough to easily identify whether a collector is licensed. It has also made enforcement against unlicensed scrap metal collectors easier for the council and its partners and has reduced the number of times licensed collectors are pulled over by the police and other partners for inspection, which in turn has improved relationships with the licensed trade.

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Licensing Act

For those of us who attended the Pub Watch meeting in March we heard the sad story of Daniel Baird who died in 2017 because appropriate materials to control his bleeding were not available. However, we also heard that his legacy has been the nationwide distribution of lifesaving bleed control kits that include a chest seal, tourniquet, trauma bandage and gauze. As we heard, only in September last year Essex Live reported that bleed control kit donated by The Liam Taylor Legacy helped a pub landlord provide life-saving first aid to a man who had his throat slashed.

There is no doubt that bleed control kits can save lives in the event of a serious bleed and it was encouraging to hear that many of Walsall's NTE venues are purchasing them.



From left to right: Beth Lonsdale (Walsall Navigator with West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership), PC Ian Brotherton (Walsall Young Persons Officer), Matthew Walters (Assistant Facilities Manager - Saddlers Shopping Centre), Tim Cronin (Community Response Project Manager - West Midlands Ambulance Service) and Dean McMullen (Community Protection Team - Walsall Council). Photo: West Midlands Police

To support the work of charities and other contributors, Walsall Council, in collaboration with West Midlands Police, West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership, West Midlands Ambulance Service and West Midlands Fire Service Started a programme of distributing 20 kits around the Borough in 2019. However, due to COVID, the programme had to be restarted and by the end of 2022, the kits had been renewed and increased to 23, and partners in retail and hospitality found to host them.

Fourteen of the kits have currently been distributed around the borough and three new external 24/7 access Bleed Control cabinets are due to be installed after Easter.

Additionally, free training in their use has been offered to all of the host partners and to hospitality venues across the borough, so that should an incident occur our local communities will have the materials, training and confidence to save unnecessary loss of life.

Roadworks

We carry out roadworks to repair and improve the roads in Walsall Borough. This may involve road closures and diversions, or the use of temporary traffic lights.

Public utility companies also carry out roadworks to maintain essential gas, water, electricity, and phone services. If there is an emergency, they can close a road up to two hours before letting us know about it.

Current roadworks

You can view a map below showing active roadworks which is taken from the [One network](#) website. Some details may not appear immediately.

Business Rates Revaluation 2023

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has updated the rateable values of all business, and other non-domestic, property in England and Wales. These future rateable values will take effect from 1 April 2023.

The information released today gives the future rateable values for non-domestic properties in England and Wales. You can check the factual information used for your valuation and tell the VOA if anything is wrong. The rateable value for your property is not what you pay in business rates or rent.

Premises licence annual fees are determined by the non-domestic rateable value of a premises. Therefore it is licence holders responsibility to ensure that the non-domestic rateable value is correct and you are paying the correct annual fee. Please be aware that your annual fee amount may be changing from April 2023, this is out of our control and any disputes should be taken up with the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).

To view your current and future non-domestic rateable value you can do so [here](#).



**If you have any questions regarding anything you have read in the newsletter, please email:
Licensing - Licensing@walsall.gov.uk or Taxi Licensing - Taxilicensing@walsall.gov.uk**

