

Advice for passengers on how to make your journey safe.

Always pre-book and make a note of the colour and make of the car, you could also ask for the driver's name.

Confirm the driver's details when they arrive - is it the Taxi or Private Hire that you booked?

Never get into an unmarked car.

Cars cruising the streets looking for customers are illegal, uninsured and potentially very dangerous.

Don't flag them down. It's safer that way. If you flag down a private hire car you are **not** insured for the journey and no record of the journey can be traced.

Check the driver is wearing an identification badge.

Sharing a Taxi or Private Hire vehicle with a friend and sitting in the back of the car are also good safety strategies.

Let someone know that you are in the vehicle and on your way.

Females can ask for a lady driver if they prefer - ask when booking.

Ask in advance how much the fare is going to be.

Before you go out - make sure you have the money to pay for your journey. You may be prosecuted if you cannot pay.

Keep the telephone numbers of trusted, licensed firms on your mobile.

For more information about the contents of this leaflet contact Licensing on:
01895 837325 or 837777

Email:
licensing@southbucks.gov.uk

Licensing
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Capswood
Oxford Road
Denham
UB9 4LH

This advisory leaflet is intended to be a helpful and useful source of information and not binding on any party. The Council offers no guarantee or warranties concerning the accuracy of the information supplied.

If you need this information in another format such as large print please ask us.



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How are you getting home?

The Safe Ride Guide



South Bucks
District Council

The Safe Ride Guide

This has been produced by South Bucks District Council to explain the basic rules covering Taxis and licensed Private Hire Cars. Its purpose is to help you travel more safely – and to help you be on guard against illegal ‘pirate’ operators.

South Bucks District Council is responsible for licensing Hackney Carriage (Taxis) and Private Hire Vehicles and their drivers in South Bucks. The Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Section licence vehicles, drivers and operators to ensure they meet the conditions of their licence.

It is the Council’s job to make sure that the Taxi and Private Hire trade in South Bucks is operated in a professional manner and that the correct standards of safety and comfort are satisfied by all vehicles, drivers and operators. ALL licensed Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle drivers are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.

Remember!

Unlicensed (illegal) vehicles have not been examined by the Council for safety and roadworthiness, may not have a current M.O.T. and are unlikely to be insured to carry passengers for hire.

Taxis

Taxis can also be referred to as Hackney Carriages. These can be a London style cab, a saloon car, an estate or MPV displaying a taxi roof and taxi door signs and a blue plate on the rear near the bumper

Taxis have:

- A blue licence plate on the rear.
- A roof sign.
- A fare meter with illuminated hire sign.
- A fare chart displayed inside.
- A door sign showing the vehicle licence number.

Taxis can:

- Wait (rank up) at designated ranks.
- Be flagged down.
- Can be booked by telephone
- The fares are set by South Bucks District Council and the fare meters are checked regularly.
- Meters must always be used for journeys within the South Bucks District area. For all other journeys the fare is negotiable with the driver before the start of the journey. The vehicles are checked regularly.

Remember!

If you feel threatened trust your instincts - if you are at all worried - ask the driver to stop in a busy area, and get out of the car.

If the driver refuses to stop, use a mobile (if you have one) to call the Police and alert other drivers and pedestrians by waving or calling out the window.

Private Hire Vehicles

Private Hire Vehicles are sometimes also referred to as Hire Cars and Mini Cabs. The vehicle is usually a family-sized car or people carrier.

Private Hire Vehicles have:

- A red licence plate on the rear.
- A roof sign.
- Usually a radio system linked to the operator’s base.

Cannot:

- Rank up or otherwise make itself publicly available for hire.
- Be flagged down - if you flag down a Private Hire Vehicle you may not be insured in the event of an injury or accident.
- Advertise or display a ‘taxi’ sign.
- Private Hire Vehicles must be pre-booked by telephone or personal visit to the Operator’s licensed premises. Any private hire vehicle which is flagged down, ranked up or is plying for hire is breaking the law. It is **illegal** for a Private Hire Vehicle to pick up an unbooked fare. The cost of hiring or the use of a meter should be agreed before the start of the journey.

Drivers

All drivers must be wearing a badge with the licence number and its date of expiry. The drivers and the Private Hire Vehicle Operators (the radio base) are controlled by licensing conditions. Vehicles are checked regularly.