



# GREATER MANCHESTER MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS AND CLEAN AIR PLAN

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## Information for taxi and private hire services

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**October 2020**

### Introduction

Taxis and private hire vehicles (PHV) play a crucial role in keeping Greater Manchester (GM) moving, making millions of journeys every year. It is vital that they can consistently deliver safe and high-quality services for the public.

GM is holding two consultations between 8 October and 3 December 2020 that affect hackney carriage and private hire services licensed in one of the ten local authorities.

We are asking for views on the proposed:

- GM Minimum Licensing Standards
- GM Clean Air Plan

# Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards (MLS)

There are currently different licensing standards for taxis and PHV services across the ten Greater Manchester (GM) local authorities. We're proposing minimum standards in key areas, while allowing individual local authorities' standards to exceed these where they consider this to be appropriate.

This will help deliver services that are safer and more customer-focused, with high environmental and accessibility standards. It will give customers the confidence to choose GM-licensed services over out of town services, and help secure the long-term future of the trade.

The proposed MLS focus on four areas:

- 1) **Drivers:** Common standards on criminal record checks; medical examinations; local knowledge test; English language proficiency; driver training; driving proficiency; and dress code.
- 2) **Vehicles:** Vehicle emissions (diesel Euro VI and above, petrol Euro IV and above with an ambition for a zero-emission – capable (ZEC) fleet); vehicle ages (under five years at first licensing, no older than 10 years); vehicle colour (black for taxi/hackney, white for PHV); vehicle livery (common GM design with council logo incorporated); accessibility (all taxis to be wheelchair accessible); vehicle testing; CCTV; executive hire; vehicle design and licensing requirements.
- 3) **Operators:** Private hire operators/staff will require basic criminal record check; more stringent requirements in relation to booking records; operators to take more responsibility for the behaviour of their drivers.
- 4) **Local authorities:** Applications may be submitted up to eight weeks in advance of licence expiry; once determined, licence issued within five working days; agree to develop common enforcement approach and framework to which licensing fees are set; training for councillors reviewing licence applications.



## The road map to zero emission capable vehicles

GM is also proposing a road map to reducing harmful vehicle emissions, with the aim of an entirely zero-emission – capable (ZEC)\* taxi and private hire fleet across GM by 2029. This will support the city-region's current Clean Air Plan to reduced harmful nitrogen dioxide emissions. It will also help meet GM's aim to be carbon-neutral by 2038. In addition, the Government has announced plans to ban the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles from as early as 2032.

GM is therefore including the transition to ZEC vehicles in its timetable as part of this consultation, with the following proposed timeline:

- 2025: All new to licence vehicles need to be ZEC.
- 2028 All vehicles need to be ZEC.
- 2029: An entirely ZEC taxi/ PHV fleet across GM by 2029.

To give taxi and private hire owners the confidence to make this investment, we are working with Government to provide supporting funding and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

\* Vehicles which are eligible / supported by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) plug-in grant [gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants](https://gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants)

## Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan

Government has directed Greater Manchester (GM) to introduce a Category C Clean Air Zone across the region in spring 2022. Under the plans, non-compliant taxis and PHVs would pay a daily charge of £7.50 to drive in GM.

Recognising that some owners of PHVs also use their vehicle for private, domestic use – and that cars are not included in the proposed Clean Air Zone – GM is proposing a discounted weekly charge (5/7th of the weekly total). Owner drivers of GM-licensed PHVs (and PHVs leased full-time by one person), would be eligible to apply for this discount.

## Funding support

GM is requesting a package of over £20m in funding from Government to help local, GM-licensed taxi and PHV owners upgrade to cleaner vehicles or ZEC vehicles. The proposals include the option of either a lump sum grant or a monetary contribution towards vehicle finance. The proposals are in addition to the grants currently available from the UK Government, for buying ZEC vehicles. The following funding is proposed:

### GM-licensed private hire wheelchair-accessible vehicles (WAVs) or minibuses

There are two options:

- A grant of £5,000 for a compliant 6+ seater vehicle.
- Access to vehicle finance, offering an average subsidy of £5,000, with the subsidy per vehicle capped at £7,000.

### GM-licensed non-wheelchair accessible PHVs

There are three options:

- A grant of £1,000 for replacement with a compliant internal combustion engine vehicle OR access to vehicle finance, offering an average subsidy of £1,000, with the subsidy per vehicle capped at £2,000.
- A grant of £2,000 for replacement with a compliant hybrid or plug-in hybrid OR access to vehicle finance, offering an average subsidy of £2,000, with the subsidy per vehicle capped at £3,000.
- A grant of £2,500 towards the running costs of a ZEC vehicle.

### GM-licensed hackney carriages

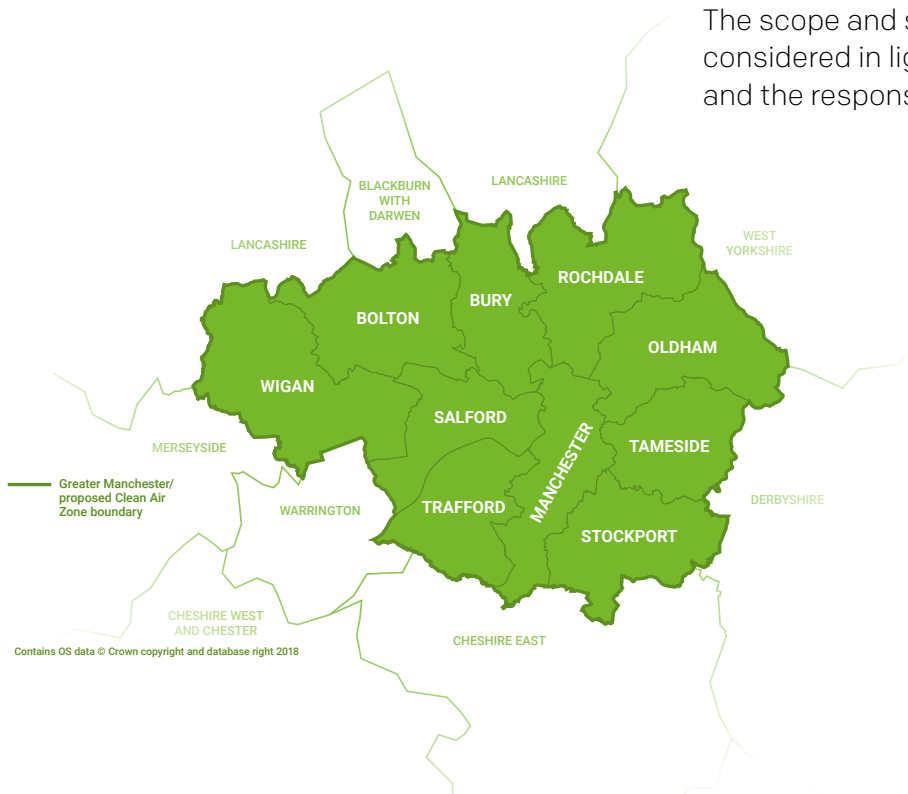
There are two options:

- A one-off grant of £10,000 towards the running costs of a ZEC vehicle or access to vehicle finance, offering an average subsidy of £10,000 with the total subsidy capped at £14,000.
- A grant of £5,000 towards the LPG retrofit of a Euro 5 vehicle less than ten years old.

### Temporary discounts and exemptions

Wheelchair accessible hackney carriages and PHVs which are licensed to one of the ten Greater Manchester local authorities, will be eligible for a temporary exemption until 31 December 2022.

There is also a proposal for a Hardship Fund to support individuals, companies and organisations who are assessed to be most economically vulnerable to the Clean Air Zone daily charges. The scope and scale of support required will be considered in light of the impact of the COVID-19 and the responses to the consultation.



## 'Try Before You Buy' and electric vehicle charging points

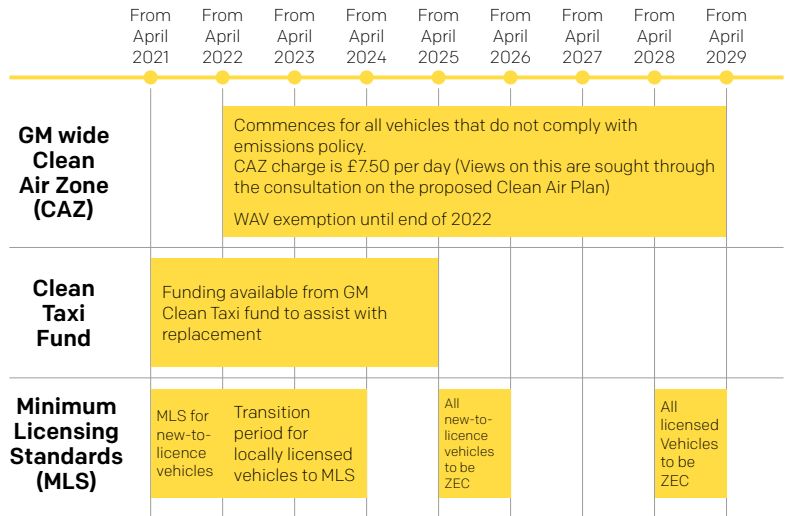
To encourage GM-licensed hackney carriage drivers to make the move to electric vehicles, we're proposing a 'Try Before You Buy' initiative. The opportunity to hire and assess the vehicle before making an investment should help to address uncertainties about operating costs, range anxiety and availability of charging infrastructure.

GM is proposing the installation of 30 rapid electric vehicle charging points across the city-region, which would be for use by taxi and PHV drivers only.

The locations will be chosen following engagement with the taxi and PHV trade visit [gmtaxistandards.com](http://gmtaxistandards.com) for more.

## Proposed timeline

Here is an indicative timeline, showing how the GM Clean Air Plan and GM MLS may affect you.



## Give your views during consultation

Consultation runs between 8 October and 3 December 2020. The findings from the consultations will be used to inform the final plans.

You can have your say on the proposals by completing the questionnaires available at:

- Minimum Licensing Standards: [gmtaxistandards.com](http://gmtaxistandards.com)
- Clean Air Plan: [cleanairgm.com](http://cleanairgm.com)

For more information about your current licensing standards visit your local authority's website and search for licensing.

For support to respond to these consultations or to request copies of the summary documents and questionnaires please contact [info@gmtaxistandards.com](mailto:info@gmtaxistandards.com) or **0161 244 1100**. Support for non-English speakers is available on **0161 244 1100**

"Prosimy o kontakt przez email [info@gmtaxistandards.com](mailto:info@gmtaxistandards.com) lub telefonicznie pod numerem 0161 244 1100 po pomoc w odpowiedzi na tą konsultację lub aby móc otrzymać egzemplarze dokumentacji z podsumowaniem wraz z ankietą.

Wsparcie dla osób nie mówiących po angielsku można otrzymać pod numerem 0161 244 1100."

"દસ્તાવેજના સારાંશ અને પ્રશ્નાવલિની નકલો મેળવવા માટે અથવા આ પરામર્શનો જવાબ આપવા માટે મદદ મેળવવા કૃપા કરીને [info@gmtaxistandards.com](mailto:info@gmtaxistandards.com) પર ઇમેઇલ દ્વારા સંપર્ક કરો

અથવા તમે 0161 244 1100 પર ટેલિફોન કરી શકો છો.

જે લોકો અંગ્રેજી નથી બોલતા, તેઓ મદદ મેળવવા, 0161 244 1100 પર ટેલિફોન કરી શકે છે."

કે જે સહાયતા માટે અમારું કાર્યકર તમને મદદ કરી શકે છે. [info@gmtaxistandards.com](mailto:info@gmtaxistandards.com) પર 0161 244 1100 નંબર પર કૃપા કરીને સંપર્ક કરો.

"الحصول على الدعم للرد على هذه الاستشارة أو لطلب نسخ من الوثيقة الموجزة والاستبيان، يرجى التواصل على البريد الإلكتروني [info@gmtaxistandards.com](mailto:info@gmtaxistandards.com) أو الإتصال بالرقم 0161 244 1100.

يتوفر الدعم لغغير الناطقين باللغة الإنجليزية على الرقم 0161 244 1100."

اس مشاورت کا جواب دینے میں مدد یا دستاویز کا خلاصہ اور سوالنامہ کی کاپی حاصل کرنے کیلئے براہ کرم ای میل [info@gmtaxistandards.com](mailto:info@gmtaxistandards.com) پر 0161 244 1100 پر ٹیلی فون کیجئے۔ جن افراد کو انگریزی زبان بولنے میں مدد درکار ہے وہ اس نمبر 0161 244 1100 پر فون کریں۔

### The impacts of COVID-19 on GM Clean Air Plan and the GM Minimum Licensing Standards

The Government has asked GM to continue to progress the Clean Air Plan, and to undertake the consultation, based on proposals developed before the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, the ten GM local authorities are asking for views on the proposed on the GM Minimum Licensing Standards. This will allow everyone with an interest to have

a complete view of all the proposed changes to vehicles, and the potential support available for vehicle upgrades.

GM is using the consultations to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on impacted groups. This information will inform future decisions on each aspect of the final plan.