

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

I'd like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. I'm happy to receive a response electronically.

1a) How many hackney carriages did the authority inspect in 2013?

ANSWER

Spot inspections: 49

1b) How many were found to have defects in 2013?

Spot inspections: 15

1c) How many were found to have serious defects in 2013?

Spot inspections: 2 out of 15*

1d) How many were suspended from service in 2013?

Spot inspections: 14

2a) How many private hire vehicles did the authority inspect in 2013?

Spot inspections: 109

2b) How many were found to have defects in 2013?

Spot inspections: 45

2c) How many were found to have serious defects in 2013?

Spot inspections: 5 out of 45*

* Serious defects have been identified as vehicles issued with an immediate prohibition notice.

2d) How many were suspended from service in 2013?

Spot inspections: 33

Routine inspections

The figures for routine inspections cannot be split for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

Each vehicle is tested **twice** a year, not once as per a private individual's vehicle. Therefore we have provided overall test and failure figures for Leicester City Council's Licenced vehicles on their bi-annual tests

The number of tests carried out on both Hackney and Private Hire vehicles in 2013 was: 2948
The number of failures was: 1182

Additionally you ask about 'serious' defects. A category of 'serious defect' is not recorded anywhere.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for Local Authorities is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

As the required information is hand written on each test record, in order to provide you with the information that you have requested would need us to manually check approximately 3500 test records (this includes tests for Oadby & Wigston Council) at over 1 minute per record which totals over 58 hours. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

3a) How many new hackney carriage licences were issued in 2013?

This depends on whether you mean new vehicles (ie, includes change of vehicle on existing licence) or just additional licences to the number in place on 31 Dec 2012.

We had 15 vehicle change applications, but no completely new HC licences were issued in 2013.

3b) How many new private hire vehicle licences were issued in 2013?

This depends on whether you mean new vehicles (ie, includes change of vehicle on existing licence) or just additional licences to the number in place on 31 Dec 2012.

We had 274 vehicle change applications and 283 completely new licence applications.

4) How many hackney carriage & private hire licensees currently hold a valid licence?

On 7 Jan 2013 – 329 hackneys, 1,115 PHV and 1,859 drivers licensed by LCC.

5) How many hackney carriage & private hire licensees have notified you that they have points on their driving licence?

Driving licence produced upon renewal of licence - records are not kept of penalty points unless they have driving convictions which fall outside the policy on convictions. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

Year 2013 – 14 drivers had relevant driving convictions. Number is total as dual licence.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager
Information and Customer Access**

**Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)**

**New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**

e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.