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# Taxi & Private Hire News

## **Equality and Human Rights Commission**

If you feel you are being discriminated against for any reason the Equality and Human Rights Commission is there to help you. They can be contacted for advice and guidance. The number for the helpline is **0845 604 6610**.

## **Contact Us**

If you have any comments regarding this newsletter, ideas for subjects to be covered or any other issue regarding taxis, private hire or related matters please contact us by email at [regulatory@fareham.gov.uk](mailto:regulatory@fareham.gov.uk) or by phone on 01329 236100.

Further information regarding Taxi and Private Hire can be found on our website at [www.fareham.gov.uk](http://www.fareham.gov.uk)

## **Tariff**

We have not received any requests for a tariff change this year. Please contact us within one week of receiving this newsletter if you would like the Members to consider a change to the tariff.

## **Rank Etiquette**

Please remember that when you are on the rank passengers should be directed to the front of the rank. Whilst the public can choose which vehicle/driver they want to use, casual people who turn up at the back or middle of the rank should be told where the front of the rank is. We have had reports recently that drivers are not doing this and it is causing bad feeling. If we get repeated complaints about particular drivers we will consider taking them to Panel.

## **Passenger Numbers**

Just a reminder, the number of passengers you are licensed for is the number you can take. It does not matter if an additional passenger is a baby in arms, they cannot be carried. A good way to remember this is heartbeats, ie if it is human and has a heartbeat it counts as a passenger.

## **Abolition of the Tax Disc**

From 1 October 2014, the paper tax disc will no longer be issued and required to be displayed on a vehicle windscreen. Vehicle tax will still need to be paid but with DVLA having a digital record of who has and has not paid, a paper tax disc is no longer necessary as proof that vehicle tax is paid. The vast majority of motorists pay their vehicle tax with latest figures confirming that over 99% of motorists' tax their vehicles on time. Most on-road enforcement action is now based on using Automatic Number Plate Readers. These cameras use the number plate rather than a visual inspection of the tax disc. The police also have access to DVLA records via the police national computer. There are significant savings for fleet operators and other businesses from not having to handle the administration of tax discs.

You can check the tax status of any vehicle including those abandoned at [www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax](http://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax)

For further information go to [www.gov.uk/dvla/nomoretaxdisc](http://www.gov.uk/dvla/nomoretaxdisc)

## **Parking on the Rank**

Please do not park on the rank. If you need the toilet you are permitted to leave your vehicle on the Library rank for a maximum of 10 minutes to use the facilities. You are not permitted to leave your vehicle on any rank for any other reason.

### Osborn Road South

Carriageway resurfacing works on Osborn Road South from the junction with Osborn Road to the junction with West Street, Fareham.

The works are programmed to start in August 2014 and are expected to last for 2 nights, during which time the road will be closed to through traffic from approximately 20:00 to 06:00hrs. The road will be open during the daytime.

Please note these timescales are weather dependant. Any changes to the scheduled date will be made clear on the yellow sign boards where the work is taking place, and on <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/transport> and you can also call 0845 603 5633 to check when work is being carried out.



#### True Vision launches free Hate Crime App for smartphones

The free downloadable app works alongside the full web facility at [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk).

The App can give basic information about what a hate crime is and can link directly to an online facility to report hate crime and incidents directly to the police force where the crime took place.

Users can also share the app with friends by email and sms