

DETERMINATION NOTICE

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

**CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO DEPART FROM LICENSING PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS
IN RESPECT OF PRIVATE HIRE SIGNAGE**

Date of Hearing	23rd July 2025 at 3.30pm
Panel Members	Councillor Ben Jones (Chair) Councillor Colin Rose (Vice Chair) Councillor Barry Ayres
Legal Adviser	Amy Pearce
Democratic Support Officer	Lauren Steele
Senior Licensing Officer	Craig Pease
Applicant	Mr Lucian Stinga
Observer	Councillor Steve Everett

On 23rd July 2025, the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk ("the Council") being the relevant authority for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing considered an application to depart from Licensing Procedures and Conditions in respect of Private Hire Signage.

The Senior Licensing Officer presented the report to the Panel.

Neither the Applicant nor the Panel had any questions for the Senior Licensing Officer.

The Panel chose not to inspect the vehicle.

The Applicant presented their case, emphasising that with a Special Event Vehicle there are additional requirements, such as the minimum fee of £30, and that the customer has to request the Special Event Vehicle. He explained that many customers do not understand what that means, and that as some of his customers are "high-end", they do not wish to provide a reason for why they want to use the vehicle.

He believes that there is only one other similar vehicle in the area, and he wants King's Lynn to have this type of service at a reasonable cost, but he explained that the vehicle is expensive to run, and he needs to earn enough money towards its upkeep.

In response to questions from the Senior Licensing Officer, the Applicant explained that he chose to change from only Special Events to Private Hire to allow the customers that wished to use the "nice car" to do so, but without the higher costs associated with its use. He explained that he does not have a suitable alternative vehicle, aside from an 8-seater with wheelchair access but this is not always available.

The Senior Licensing Officer also queried why the Applicant believes that use of the stickers on the vehicle would stop people using his business. The Applicant explained that some of

his customers want privacy, others just want to use a nice car without signage on. He explained that he also does weddings, and the stickers are not suitable for this. He did confirm that he is happy to continue to display the plate on the back of the vehicle though.

The Applicant explained that Special Event use only is not ideal for him, as weddings only take place at certain times of the year, so are less frequent. He also wants to be able to use the vehicle more often for his regular customers. He feels that Private Hire use allows this and without the stickers, he expects to be able to use it even more, which will help him to afford to keep the vehicle running. He feels that it would be good to be able to offer this type of vehicle and service to his customers at a reasonable price.

There were no questions from the Panel.

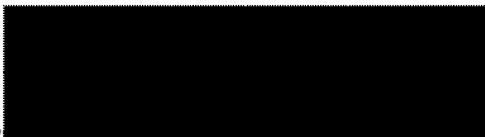
The Senior Licensing Officer summed up the case and requested that the Panel consider the contents of the report, and dispose of the matter by either allowing or rejecting the request. He confirmed that there is no right of appeal against the Council and that the decision can only be challenged by way of judicial review.

The Applicant summed up their case.

DETERMINATION

The Panel has considered the evidence in the report, the oral evidence put forward at the Hearing, and the Licensing Procedures and Conditions when reaching its decision.

The Panel placed emphasis on the importance of adhering to the agreed licensing conditions, and the reasons for displaying the stickers on the front doors of the vehicle. The Panel felt that on balance, being able to easily identify the vehicle for both information, and public safety purposes outweighed the need to provide a lower cost service in a higher specification vehicle. The Panel also wanted to ensure that their decision demonstrated fairness and consistency to other licence holders in the area. Therefore, the Panel have decided not to depart from the agreed Licensing Procedures and Conditions, and will not be granting an exemption from the requirement to display private hire signage on the front doors of the vehicle.

Signed.. 

Councillor Ben Jones
Chair of the Licensing and Appeals Board

23rd July 2025