

## **12. Medical Assessment and Medical Examination Reports :**

- 12.1 Under Section 57 of the 1976 Act the Council may require an Applicant for a Driver's Licence to, :-
- (a) Produce a Medical Certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner to confirm that they are physically and mentally fit to be a Licensed Driver. The Council requires this Medical Certificate upon submitting an initial Application for a Licence. This is done via the completion of a Medical Examination Report; and
  - (b) Regardless of whether a Medical Examination Report has been produced, to submit to examination by a registered medical practitioner selected by the Council as to their fitness to be a Licensed Driver.
- 12.2 In line with the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles Licensing : Best Practice Guidance 2010 the Council applies the DVLA Group 2 driver standard for medical fitness for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers. This is a higher medical standard than that required for drivers of other motor vehicles due to the length of time a Licensed Driver may spend at the wheel and the responsibility they have for the safety of their passengers and the public. In addition, Licensed Drivers may have to assist disabled passengers and carry luggage, or similar items, unless the Driver has been issued with an Exemption Certificate by the Council exempting them from performing the duties set out in Section 165 of the 2010 Act.
- 12.3 When submitting an initial Application for a Driver's Licence an Applicant is required to produce the stated Medical Examination Report signed by a registered medical practitioner. This can be completed by the Applicant's own GP, or by a medical practitioner with access to the Applicant's full medical history.
- 12.4 The Applicant is responsible for paying the respective fee for the examination. The Medical Examination Report can be returned direct to the Licensing Section by the medical professional who prepared the Report. The Report is valid for a period of three months after which either a new Medical Examination Report, or a letter from the medical professional who carried out the original medical confirming that there has been no change in the medical fitness of the Applicant will be required. After a 12 month period a new Medical Examination Report will be required.
- 12.5 The medical professional must confirm that, :-
- (a) They have examined the Applicant and the Applicant is registered with their medical practice and / or they have had full and complete access to the Applicant's medical records;
  - (b) The medical examination was carried out to the Group 2 standard; and
  - (c) They consider the Applicant to be fit to act as the driver of a Hackney Carriage, or Private Hire Vehicle in accordance with Group 2 standard.

- 12.6 Applicants aged 45 years, or over must provide evidence of their medical fitness to hold a Licence every five years up until the age of 65 years, after which a medical examination is required every year. Where a medical examination is due within the term of an existing Driver's Licence, the Licensing Section will contact the Driver in writing to advise of this.
- 12.7 In the event that the required Medical Examination Report is not provided within the relevant timescales, normally 60 days from the request being made, the Driver's Licence will be suspended until such time as a Medical Examination Report is provided. Depending upon the circumstances of the case, suspension may be with immediate effect in accordance with Section 61(2B) of the 1976 Act.
- 12.8 In other cases where a more in-depth Medical Examination Report has been undertaken for a specific profession, (such as a Pilot's Licence), then this may be considered as acceptable, on a case-by-case basis by the Licensing Section, instead of the Group 2 standard.
- 12.9 If a Licensed Driver has a medical condition, or develops a medical condition that requires notification to the DVLA they must also notify the Council in writing at the same time that the DVLA is notified. To check whether a medical condition requires notification the following link to the DVLA is of assistance, where Conditions can be checked in accordance with the latest guidance : <https://www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving/find-condition-a-to-z>
- 12.10 All Licensed Drivers are required to immediately notify the Council in writing of any deterioration in their health, or medical condition that may affect their ability to drive. Such information is required to be reported via the Council's website portal : <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/Taxi-Licensing-change-of-details>
- 12.11 In addition to the above requirements, where a Licensed Driver suffers from a condition that requires monitoring, but would not prevent them from driving a Licensed Vehicle, they are required to provide written confirmation from their GP, or consultant, as recommended by the DVLA standards. This written confirmation is required to be provided each year that they remain fit to carry out the duties of a Licensed Driver and / or may be required to undergo an annual medical, the cost of this is to be covered by the Licensed Driver.
- 12.12 For the avoidance of any doubt, :-
- (a) If the Council is not satisfied as to the medical fitness of an Applicant, a Driver's Licence will not be granted; and
  - (b) If the Council is not satisfied as to the medical fitness of a Licensed Driver there may be "*any other reasonable cause*" to refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke the respective Driver's Licence under Section 61 of the 1976 Act. Depending on the circumstances of the case, suspension, or revocation may be with immediate effect in accordance with Section 61(2B) of the 1976 Act.

12.13 Licensed Drivers who are subject to specific annual medical checks in accordance with the DVLA may be limited to having an annual Licence issued.

12.14 The Medical Assessment can be found on the Council's website at the following link : <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/19757/Have-a-medical-check>

12.15 The DVLA Medical Standards can be found here : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-information-assessing-fitness-to-drive>