

Fact sheet 6

Licensing of London's private hire industry

- The Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act, 1998 sets out the framework for licensing London's private hire industry.
- A private hire vehicle is a vehicle seating fewer than nine passengers which is made available with a driver to the public for hire for the purpose of carrying passengers, other than a licensed taxi or public service vehicle.
- Licensing will be implemented in three phases:
 - Licensing of private hire operators – (commenced January 2001 - 1800 operators licensed to date)
 - Licensing of private hire drivers
 - Licensing of private hire vehicles
- It is estimated that there are:
 - 2000 private hire operators
 - 40,000 private hire drivers
 - 40,000 private hire vehicles to be licensed in London
- The new licensed private hire industry will be regulated by the Public Carriage Office on behalf of Transport for London.