

TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE TIMES

MAY 2025



DISESTABLISHMENT OF TAXI RANK ON PRINCES STREET, IPSWICH

A notice has been placed in the press and sent to all hackney carriage vehicle proprietors advising that it is intended to disestablish the taxi rank on Princes Street, Ipswich near The Maltings.

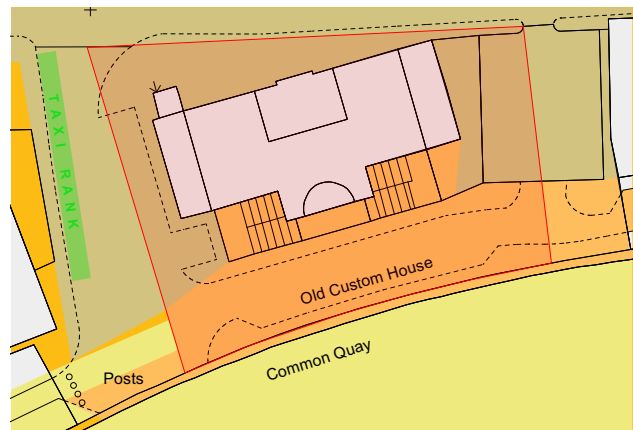
This rank is from 10 pm to 4 am and was there to service the nightclub in The Maltings. The nightclub has long since gone and the rank is naturally not now used by the trade.

A developer wishes to install a pedestrian crossing on the road and the rank interferes with this installation, hence the request to disestablish the rank.

If any driver wishes to make a representation against the disestablishment, please email licensing@ipswich.gov.uk and state your reasons for retaining the rank by no later than 30 May 2025.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TAXI RANK ON KEY STREET, IPSWICH

The Council intends to establish a 24/7 five vehicle taxi rank on Key Street, Ipswich. As seen on this plan:



A notice has been placed in the press and a consultation has commenced. Please email any comments to licensing@ipswich.gov.uk stating your reasons for your comments by no later than 16 June 2025.

VEHICLE NUMBER PLATES

All vehicles are required to have a registration plate that meets the legal criteria for the type of vehicle. The Council will be taking enforcement action to ensure that all number plates are legal for the vehicle that is licensed. Please check your vehicle number plate and ensure that it is not:

- 1. A motorbike plate;
- 2. A ghost plate;
- 3. A stealth plate



In order to have any of these, you would have had to replace the original plate on the vehicle. If you have not replaced your plate, then it should meet the requirements.

LICENCE RENEWALS

Please apply in good time for the renewal of your vehicle or driver’s licence and ensure you complete the application (i.e. pay and submit all required information). Once we have everything we need, your licence and badge/plate will be sent out to you by post.

If you apply at the last minute, please do not expect us to process your application in time for the renewal. You will have to wait until you have received your licence and badge/plate in the post before you can continue to work.



NO RIGHT TURN OUT OF THE RAILWAY STATION

Despite the signs and repeated warnings in newsletters reports are still being received of licensed drivers coming out of the drop off/pick up area at the railway station and turning right, when this is illegal.

In turning right, drivers often block the road for traffic coming from the right, which causes traffic to back up and block road.

You must turn left out of this area. It is understood that you may wish to go in the opposite direction but you will need to find an area further down the road to safely turn and come back in the direction you require or do a round trip.



TAXI ROOF SIGNS

The Conditions of licence for a Hackney Carriage state that on a vehicle other than a purpose-built taxi the roof sign shall measure not less than 18 inches in width and 6 inches in height and shall be visible from both front and rear.

Please ensure your roof sign meets these criteria as checks will be carried out.



CHANGE IN DETAILS FOR DBS UPDATE SERVICE

If you change your name you will need to change your update registration. To do this you will need to complete a new DBS in your new name.

This will lengthen the process so ensure you apply early.



ASSISTANCE DOGS IN LICENSED VEHICLES

You may not refuse to transport passengers with assistance dogs unless you have been issued with an exemption certificate from doing so. An exemption certificate will only be issued with medical proof which supports the exemption and application forms and details can be obtained from the licensing team.

If you arrive at a booking, or are approached on the rank, you must carry the passenger and their assistance dog. They may sit where they like in the vehicle and the dog must remain with the passenger at all times.

PASSENGERS IN WHEELCHAIRS

If you drive a wheelchair accessible vehicle, you may not refuse to transport a passenger in a wheelchair. Furthermore, you must load the passenger in the wheelchair into the vehicle and ensure it is securely fastened using the straps in the vehicle.

The only exception to this is where the wheelchair will not physically fit into the vehicle.

All wheelchair accessible vehicles, hackney carriage or private hire, are on the Designated Vehicles list under Section 167 of the Equality Act 2010 and it is an offence under that Act to refuse to transport a passenger in a wheelchair without a reasonable excuse or holding an exemption certificate.

