

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places
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**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

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4 April 2022

Dear Baroness Vere of Norbiton

Use of the National Register for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Refusals and Revocations

I write further to your letter of 23 March 2022 in relation to the use of the National Register for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Refusals and Revocations (NR3).

We welcomed the introduction of NR3 and incorporated the use of the register within our licensing policy for hackney carriage and private hire which was adopted at the end of June 2021. Following adoption of this policy, officers wrote to everyone who has previously been refused a licence or had a licence revoked to inform them that their details were to be added to the register and provide them with sufficient time to respond. This was completed towards the end of 2021 and following this NR3 was updated with the information we hold.

Officers started using NR3 in February 2022 and a search of the database is now part of the standard procedure for all new and renewal applications.

I would like to reassure you that prior to the introduction of NR3 all the licensing authorities across Oxfordshire shared information relating to hackney carriage and private hire applicants, which mirrored the principles of NR3, whereby the details of any applicant who had their application refused or licence revoked are entered onto a register which is shared with the other licensing authorities to refer to when reviewing new and renewal applications. In addition to this, where an application is received from an applicant who lives outside of our district, a request for personal information under the Data Protection Act 2018 is sent to the licensing authority where the applicant resides to seek information to assist with our determination relating to the 'fit and proper' test. We continue to follow these processes and will do until our neighbouring authorities are also using NR3.

I note that the House of Lords is considering the mandatory use of NR3 under the Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill, and we would

welcome the introduction of this to provide an additional safeguard for our residents when using taxis and private hire vehicles.

I can also confirm that officers have responded to the survey referenced in your letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Rouane', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council