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28 January 2022

Dear Drivers and Operators

**1. Electric Vehicle (EV) training courses for taxi and private hire drivers**

The Department of Transport are offering a range of free electric vehicle training courses. These free courses are open to licensed taxi and private hire drivers in England consist of a 60-minute training course delivered via Zoom, followed by the opportunity to test-drive several models of EVs suitable for taxi or private hire work.

The aim is to help taxi and private hire drivers improve their knowledge of EVs and demonstrate the real financial and operational benefits that EVs can bring.

Each training course has a maximum of 15 attendees, and we encourage plenty of questions and discussion.

The courses cover the following topics:

- What is driving the global surge in EV sales?
- EV models currently available including their sizes, functionality and realistic driving ranges
- Recharging: How, where and what does it cost?
- EV purchase and running costs
- How to drive EVs efficiently to maximise range
- FAQs including:
  - Do EVs really save CO2?
  - Will the National Grid cope?
  - How long will lithium reserves last?
  - Do the batteries degrade?

Most of the training courses have a geographical location, which will enable them to deliver the test drive element locally.

For more information or to reserve your free place, please email [SMEtraining@est.org.uk](mailto:SMEtraining@est.org.uk)

**2. Electric Vehicle charging points**

The Licensing team would like to notify Swale taxi drivers that the electric charging points on Central Avenue are now operational.

**3. Shortlands Road – Speed Limit**

We have been notified again that some taxi drivers are still driving in the wrong direction and also exceeding the speed limit in Shortlands Road, Sittingbourne. Please be aware that residents are reporting sightings of offending vehicles to the Police.

**4. Taxi Idling**

We would like to remind drivers yet again, to not have their engines running when parked on the rank. If the weather is very cold it may be acceptable to run your vehicle for a short time in order to operate your heating. Please note that the council are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices under anti-idling legislation and are reviewing this issue as part of the Taxi Policy.

January 2022

**5. Highway code changes**

There have been eight changes made to the Highway Code for all types of road users to improve the safety of people walking, cycling and riding horses.

Please see the link below for more details on the changes

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>

Kind regards,  
Licensing Team