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National Register of Taxi Licence Refusals, Revocations, and Suspensions (NR3S)

The Local Government Association (LGA) and the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) launched the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3) in 2018. The Register provides a mechanism for licensing authorities to record details where a taxi or PHV drivers' licence has been refused or revoked, and allows licensing authorities to check new applicants against the Register. The simple objective of the NR3 was to ensure that licensing authorities could take properly informed decisions on whether an applicant was 'fit and proper', in the knowledge that another authority had previously reached a negative view on the same applicant.

NR3 was developed and promoted to improve public safety and confidence in taxi and PHV licensing. The benefits of sharing this data were widely acknowledged and the Department for Transport (DfT) has recognised the value of NR3, using legislation to mandate its use.

On 31 March 2022, the Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022 received Royal Assent. Statutory Guidance was published on 23 May 2022. From 7 April 2023, the Act places new duties on PHV licensing authorities in England. The Act contains provisions that require licensing authorities to record information relating to drivers' licensing histories (refusals, revocations or suspensions) on a National Register. Furthermore, before a licensing authority in England decides whether to grant or renew a driver licence, it must search the Register for any entry relating to the applicant.

The simple objective of the NR3S National Register is to ensure that licensing authorities are able to take properly informed decisions on whether an applicant is 'fit and proper' in the knowledge that another licensing authority has previously reached a negative view on the same applicant. The NR3S Register provides a mechanism for licensing authorities to establish whether an individual has had a licence refused, revoked or suspended and identifies the licensing authority that took the action.

Whenever a taxi and PHV licensing authority processes a new application or renewal, it is required to check the NR3S Register at a suitably early stage of the process to confirm whether the applicant was subject to a previous licensing decision of which they should be aware. A licensing authority must not base its decision solely on an entry on the database. Every application must be considered on its own merits.