

Dear Parents/carers,

Are you considering hiring a stretched limousine and other luxury or performance vehicles for your child's prom night?

Not all companies that advertise these services are licensed. Hiring a vehicle and driver that hasn't been properly vetted and licensed could put your child and their friends at risk. The driver may not have had a criminal record check or the vehicle may not be roadworthy. Unlicensed vehicles and drivers won't be insured.

In the last 6 years, DVSA has impounded 31 unsafe limos and crushed 20.

Checks to carry out when hiring a vehicle and chauffeur

You can carry out simple checks to make sure that the limo you book is safe and legal. The checks you need to do depend on how many passenger seats the limo has.

Companies hiring out a vehicle and driver with fewer than nine seats may require a private hire vehicle operators licence from City of Wolverhampton Council. Ask the company if they are licensed and which local authority licenses them, then contact that authority to confirm.

You can also check to see if they are licensed online at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/licences/taxi-licences by clicking 'Online Licence Registers' and then selecting 'Operators'.

Companies hiring out a limousine with a driver with 9 passenger seats or more must have a public service vehicle (PSV) operator licence, issued by a Traffic Commissioner. You can online at www.gov.uk/find-vehicle-operators.

If they don't have a licence, they're could be operating illegally. You can report this at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/licences/taxi-licences/taxi-complaints or by calling 01902 55 TAXI.

Remember, be safe, not sorry.

Glen Moseley
Service Lead Compliance
Licensing Services