**Disabled Passengers**

**ALL** Hackney carriage vehicles licensed with Nottingham City Council have access for wheelchairs. They have a ramp or set of parallel ramps to enable access for wheelchairs into the vehicle. The rear seats are required to be lifted to allow the wheelchair to be turned through an angle of 90 degrees with the passenger facing the rear of the vehicle and the wheelchair with its back against the plexiglass partition. The wheelchair must be shackled to the bulkhead using the two restraining straps and the seatbelt extension belt should then be used for the passenger.

Hackney carriages have a swivel seat to enable a passenger to sit from outside the vehicle and then swivel into the vehicle to gain easier access. Hackney carriages may also have a step that can be used to help passengers gain access to the vehicle.

If it is not possible for a wheelchair to be carried safely in a hackney carriage then there are several Nottingham City Council licensed Private Hire Operators who have specialist vehicles.

**N.B. Passengers in wheelchairs must not be carried sideways in Hackney Carriage Vehicles. See** [**Birmingham Coroner - Fatality of 14 year old disabled girl in wheelchair**](http://www.birminghammail.net/news/top-stories/2009/07/08/girl-s-death-sparks-taxi-safety-call-97319-24102815/)**.**

**Designated vehicle list (under s.165 Equality Act 2010)**

All hackney carriage vehicles licensed by Nottingham City Council (London style black cabs in Nottingham) are Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles and all Nottingham's fleet of hackney carriages are able to carry the Department of Transport (DFT) designated "reference wheelchair" (a set of dimensions which the DFT have published on their website).

These hackney carriage vehicles may just work from the hackney carriage vehicle ranks or pick up hails from the street and therefore do not need to work for any of Nottingham's licensed Private Hire Operators. However, some of the vehicles will work for a Nottingham licensed Private Hire Operator.

All Nottingham City Council's Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles are [listed here](https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/business-information-and-support/business-and-trading-licences-and-permits/transport-and-streets-licences/taxi-licensing/travel-safely-by-taxi/).

N.B. The hackney carriage meter must not be started by the driver until the passenger in a wheelchair is safely and correctly secured in the vehicle.  The hackney carriage meter must be stopped before un-securing the passenger at the end of the journey.

**Loading of Wheelchair into a Hackney Carriage Vehicle**

The following videos show a wheelchair being correctly and safely loaded and secured in a hackney carriage vehicle;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1TTw9tDOWk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJ3xRIwgHqM>

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Owner's Handbooks and Brochures are available below to download. The Owner's Handbooks in particular show how to correctly secure a wheelchair;

* [TX2 Owners Handbook](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/2170/owners_handbook_tx2)
* [TX4 Owners Handbook](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/2171/owners_handbook_tx4)
* [TX4 Euro 5 Brochure](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/2173/london_taxi_tx4_euro_5_brochure)
* [LEVC TX](https://www.levc.com/ownership/understanding-tx/)

**Taxi Licensing Office**

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