

FOI REF:	14811
RESPONSE SENT:	16/10/2024

Request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding English language proficiency requirements for taxi drivers in your district. Specifically, I would like to know:

1. How many taxi driver license applications or renewals have been denied due to insufficient English language skills over the past year?
2. How many applicants have been required to take a test to assess their English language proficiency during the application or renewal process?.
3. If applicable, what criteria or standards are used to assess an applicant's English language proficiency?
4. What type of English language tests, if any, are administered as part of the licensing process?

Response:

1. None. We only conduct knowledge and language assessments through verbal communication for initial applications and not renewals.
2. No specific or formal English language tests are conducted. Applicants are interviewed by Licensing Officers, who through conversation establish the applicants command of verbal English language skills. If they are concerned this becomes self evident very quickly and the application will be refused on the basis of the poor command of English. I would however say that whilst a significant proportion of our applicants do not possess English as their first language most if not all, also have a good command of English.
3. All applicants are required to sit a multiple choice set of questions which are completed on a tablet. All questions are in English so they must have the capacity to read the questions.
4. No formal English language tests are adopted, beyond verbal communication with Licensing Officers as stated in the answer to question 2.

