



NEWS

For immediate release

Date: 14 December 2018

Residents reminded to be vigilant using licensed taxis only this Christmas

Following thefts of taxi licence plates in East Northamptonshire, residents are reminded of some golden rules when planning a trip or night out.

All taxis that are registered with the local council must display a licence plate (usually on the rear of the vehicle) which has a number. Four of these plates have been stolen from taxis that are licensed by East Northamptonshire Council and there are concerns that the plates could be fitted to other vehicles that may be used to commit a crime.

Steven North, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council, said: "Sadly, we have seen an increase in licence plate thefts and whilst these thefts have been reported to the Police and the plate numbers have been decommissioned, members of the public may inadvertently get into a vehicle that looks like a legitimate taxi but is actually being used for criminal purposes.

"Wherever possible, pre-book a taxi and ask the driver for the name of the booking before you get in. And always keep the number of a reliable firm with you so you don't get caught out."

The stolen licence plates have the following numbers:

- PHV/31
- PHV/70
- HCV/6
- HCV/20

If you spot these plates being used, please report as much detail as possible to the Police on 101.

Be taxi safe:

- Plan how you're going to get home from your night out – arrange a lift or book a taxi in your name. And leave the taxi booking details with a friend.
- Always keep the number of a reliable firm with you
- Avoid taxis that tout for business and are unlicensed
- When the taxi arrives, check it is the one you booked by asking for the name in which it was booked. If in doubt, don't get in
- Always sit behind the driver in the back seat
- If you feel uneasy, ask to be let out

- Stick with your friends and choose a meeting point for if you get separated
- Never accept a lift from a stranger

-ENDS-

For more information on this press release email communications@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk or call 01832 742217.

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