

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – FEBRUARY 2015
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 22 April 2015
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in February 2015. Details of these are outlined in the following sections of the report.

2. TAXI/ PRIVATE HIRE CAR CHECKS

- 2.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer routinely carries out spot checks of taxis and private hire car vehicles to ensure compliance with licence conditions.

- 2.2 The checks take place at various taxi ranks and other places within the district. The checks consist of a range of items including the following:-

- Id badge/ Taxi-Private Hire Licence
- DVLA driving licence
- Plates displayed
- Tariff Sheet
- Fire Extinguisher
- First Aid Kit
- Taximeter seal
- No commercial adverts displayed on the vehicle
- No smoking signs displayed
- Taxi roof sign
- Condition of vehicle

- 2.3 In February 2015, 27 taxis and 1 private hire car were inspected by the Licensing Enforcement Officer. The majority of these checks were found to be in order with the exception of the following matters:-

Taxi Operator 148 –The operator name sticker was missing from the taxi.
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 13.

Taxi Operator 181 – The taximeter was obscured from passengers' sight.
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 30.

Taxi Operator 300 – The operator name sticker was missing from the taxi and the taximeter seal was broken.

This is a breach of taxi licence conditions number 13 and 31.

The operators were written to and requested to attend the licensing offices and provide evidence that the matters detailed have been attended to. They have now fully complied.

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

3.1 During February 2015, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 22 civic licensing compliance checks and enquiries.

3.2 The compliance checks/enquiries involved the following civic activities:-

- Second Hand Dealers – five routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being properly displayed and that the register of sales was being kept up to date. All were found to be in order. Two enquiries were also carried out and application forms were sent out.
- Late Hours Catering – five routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence was being properly displayed. All were found to be fully compliant.
- Skin Piercing – one routine check of licensed premises was carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed properly and that the register of business was being kept up to date. All was found to be in order.
- Street Trader – two routine checks were carried out on licensed street traders (ice cream van and mobile fish van). Both licence holder details were correct and licences were being carried.
- Public Entertainment – one enquiry was made with premises that had previously held a licence. It was established that a licence was no longer required.
- Booking Office – one routine check was carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed properly and that the booking register was being kept up to date. Everything was found to be in order.
- Knife Dealer – one routine check of licensed premises carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence and appropriate notices were being displayed properly and that the register of sales was being kept up to date. The premises were found to be fully compliant.

- Window Cleaner – two routine checks of licensed window cleaners were carried out. Both were found to be operating in accordance with their licence. One window cleaner was checked and found to be operating with an expired licence. He was advised to cease working. An application has now been received from this person.
- Houses in Multiple Occupation – one enquiry was carried out in relation to a property and it was established that it was not operating as an HMO.

3.3 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 4 knowledge tests involving 5 candidates. 16 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

4.1 A complaint was received from a licensed street trader who operates an ice cream van complaining about another ice cream van operating in the same street at the same time as he was trading. The other trader was interviewed and reminded that on certain days and at certain locations they may encounter another operator. It was expected that in such circumstances they would move on to another location to avoid any confrontation.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

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Chief Governance Officer

Date: 13 April 2015

Contact Officer: Bryan Douglas, Licensing Co-ordinator (telephone 501262)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None