

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – OCTOBER 2015
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 2 December 2015
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in October 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 October 2015, 17 taxis and 4 private hire cars 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 22 – no licence holder name sticker was displayed on the vehicle.
This is a breach of condition number 13.

Private hire operator – no licence holder name was sticker displayed on the vehicle.
This is a breach of condition number 14.

The operators attended at the licensing office with their vehicles. They have now fully complied.

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

3.1 During October 2015, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 18 civic licensing compliance checks and enquiries.

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

- Second Hand Dealers – four 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. One other enquiry was also carried out with a garage premises and an application form issued.
- Late Hours Catering – two enquiries were carried out and application forms were issued.
- Skin Piercing – three routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence and notices were being properly displayed. All in order. Two enquiries were also carried out and an application form issued for one business.
- Window Cleaner – two persons were checked and both were found to be operating without a licence. Application forms were issued to both of them.
- Knife Dealer – one routine check of licensed premises was 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.
- Houses in Multiple Occupation – one enquiry was carried out and it was established that the property was not being operated as an HMO.
- Public Entertainment – one routine check of licensed premises was carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence was being properly displayed. All was found to be in order. One enquiry was also carried out to establish whether a licence was required for premises.

3.3 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 7 knowledge tests involving 10 candidates. 2 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

A complaint was received from a male person relating to a taxi parked and unattended in a disabled bay in Main Street, Larbert. The taxi driver concerned was interviewed and it was established that his father is the holder of a Blue Badge as he is wheelchair bound and suffers from dementia. The taxi driver uses his wheelchair accessible taxi on occasion to take him to the shops and to visit friends who live off Main Street, Larbert.

A complaint was received from a female alleging that a private hire car driver had deliberately parked his car to block her car in while she had been at the Asda Store, Grangemouth.

The driver was spoken to and he maintained he was merely collecting a hire from Asda and was parked in the near to the entrance of the premises briefly before moving off.

Both complainants were advised of the outcomes and were satisfied with the course of action undertaken.

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

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Chief Governance Officer
Date: 24 November 2015

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None