



Agenda Item

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**Civic Licensing Enforcement –
December 2016**

Falkirk Council

Subject: Civic Licensing Enforcement – December 2016
Meeting: Civic Licensing Committee
Date: 8 February 2017
Author: Chief Governance Officer

1. Introduction

1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in December 2016. Details of these are outlined in the following sections of the report.

2. Taxi/Private Hire 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 December 2016, 55 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 018 – the taximeter time was found to be 12 minutes slow.
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 32.

Private Hire Car Operator 084 – the taximeter time was found to be running 6 minutes fast.

This is a breach of private hire car licence condition number 32.

Taxi Drivers 1924 and 2003 – both were found not to be carrying their taxi driver licence.

This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 2.

The operators and drivers (who are first time offenders) have attended at the licensing office regarding these issues. They are now fully compliant.

3. Civic Licensing Enforcement Checks

3.1 During December 2016, 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 – 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. One enquiry was also carried out and an application form issued.
- Street Trader – two routine checks were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct (snack van and novelty toy seller). Both street traders were found to be in order.
- House of Multiple Occupation – one enquiry was made regarding a property in Main Street, Polmont. It was established that it is not operating as an unlicensed HMO.
- Skin Piercing – two 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 was found to be in order.
- Late Hours Catering – six 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 in order.
- Window Cleaner – one routine check carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct. All was found to be in order.

3.3 These checks consist of a range of items including the following:-

- Licence type
- Licence holder details
- Day to day manager details (if applicable)
- Id badge/ Licence
- Register check (if applicable)
- Vehicle details (if applicable)
- Occupants details

3.4 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 4 site notice checks. Two taxi driver knowledge tests involving four candidates were also carried out.

4. Civic Licensing Complaints

4.1 A complaint was received from a male pedestrian who reported that when crossing the road near to the exit from the Asda Store car park, Falkirk, a taxi driver had driven from the car park towards him causing him to jump out of the way. The taxi had then stopped a short distance away at traffic lights and the complainer had managed to speak to the taxi driver, who was dismissive of his complaint. The taxi driver was subsequently traced and interviewed regarding the matter and accepted that his actions were not appropriate. He wished to pass on his apologies to the complainer.

The complainer was advised of the outcome and was satisfied with the course of action taken.

5. Recommendation

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

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Chief Governance Officer

Date: 27 January 2017

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

List of background papers

None