

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – JULY 2013
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 4 September 2013
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in July 2013. 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/ 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 July 2013, 6 taxis were inspected by the Licensing Enforcement Officer. All of these checks were in order with the exception of the following matters:-

Taxi Operator 060 – The wheelchair ramps were missing from the vehicle as was taximeter seal.

This is a breach of taxi licence conditions numbers 1 and 25.

Taxi Operator 103 – The taximeter seal was found to be broken.

This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 25.

- 2.4 The driver of the vehicle with the missing ramps attended at the licensing office shortly after the inspection with the equipment in place. Both vehicles inspected in paragraph 1.3 above also had their taximeters checked and sealed.

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

- 3.1 During July 2013, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 11 civic licensing compliance checks/enquiries.

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

- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) – one enquiry carried out.
- Second Hand Dealers – three checks carried out.
- Late Hours Catering – three checks carried out.
- Public Entertainment – one check carried out.
- Skin Piercing – one enquiry and one check carried out.
- Knife Dealer – one enquiry carried out.

- 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 All of these checks were found to be in order.

- 3.5 It is of note that the enquiry carried out in relation to the suspected House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) in Stirling Street, Denny, resulted in an application being submitted for a licence.

- 3.6 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 3 knowledge tests involving 6 candidates. 9 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

One complaint was received regarding a taxi hire from the Airth Castle Hotel to Solsgirth House Hotel in Dollar. The complainer stated that the taxi had been late in attending and that the driver had been unable to find the destination. The taxi driver was subsequently interviewed and claimed to have attended on time, but admitted that she had become disorientated trying to follow the directions given to her. However, she did find the hotel and she did not charge for the journey. The complainer was satisfied that the driver was spoken to.

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

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Chief Governance Officer
Date: 27 August 2013

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None