

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – JULY 2014
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 3 September 2014
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in July 2014. 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 July 2014, 11 taxis were inspected by the Licensing Enforcement Officer. All of the checks were found to be in order.

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

- 3.1 During July 2014, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 10 civic licensing compliance checks/enquiries.

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

- Second Hand Dealers – three enquiries were carried out. One enquiry carried out involved a business selling second hand motor homes which resulted in an application form being submitted. Two further enquiries established that two licensed businesses based in La Porte Precinct, Grangemouth, (one dealing in used clothing and the other in precious metals, jewellery and watches,) had now ceased trading.
- Late Hours Catering – two routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that the licence was being displayed properly. One enquiry was carried out to confirm the terminal hour of a business. It was established that it closed at 10.30pm and therefore did not require a license.
- Skin Piercing – two routine checks of licensed premises in Falkirk were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being properly displayed and that a register of business was being kept. Both were found to be fully compliant.
- Street Trader – one licensed trader (ice cream van) was inspected and found to be operating in accordance with their licence.
- Window Cleaner – one licensed window cleaner was stopped and his documents checked. He was found to be operating in accordance with his licence.

3.3 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 6 knowledge tests involving 8 candidates. 5 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

4.1 A complaint was received from an 18 year old female who alleged that she had been subject to a sexual assault by a private hire car driver whilst a passenger in his vehicle. The matter was also reported to the Police and the driver has been cautioned and charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

4.2 A complaint was received from a female who alleged that when she was with her wheelchair bound son a taxi driver refused to take them as he did not know how to operate the wheelchair ramp system. The driver was traced and interviewed and stated that he had only recently acquired the taxi and was unsure about how the wheelchair clamps and securing system worked and did not want to endanger the wheelchair user. He claimed to have informed the complainer of this at the time and she had accepted this. The driver confirmed that he would be obtaining advice from the previous owner of the vehicle in order to utilise the clamp securing system. He has also been written to and reminded that as the driver/operator of a wheelchair taxi it should be available for hire at all times when he is operating it.

4.3 The complaint detailed in paragraph 4.1 is ongoing whilst the second complaint in paragraph 4.2 has been dealt with to the satisfaction of the complainant.

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

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Chief Governance Officer

Date: 22 August 2014

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None