

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – SEPTEMBER 2014
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 5 November 2014
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in September 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 September 2014, 44 taxis and 5 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 Operators 036 and 232– The taximeter was running 5 minutes fast.
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 32.

Taxi Operator 229 – The taximeter was obscured by the sun visor.
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 30.

Taxi Operator 455 – The taximeter seal was missing.
This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 31.

Taxi Drivers 1046 and 1730 – Not carrying their taxi driver licence.
This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 2.
The drivers subsequently purchased a duplicate licence.

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

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

3.1 During September 2014, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 24 civic licensing compliance checks/enquiries.

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

- Second Hand Dealers – ten routine checks of licensed premises were carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed properly and that the register of sales was being kept up to date. All were in order. Two enquiries were carried out with new businesses. Two applications were subsequently received.
- 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 displayed properly. One enquiry carried out with a new business and it was established that a licence was not required.
- Booking Office – one enquiry was made in relation to a complaint received about a taxi driver. A check was made of the booking records to establish the identity of the driver concerned.
- Street Trader – one routine check of a licensed mobile fish van was carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct and that he was carrying his licence. 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.
- Skin Piercing – three routine checks of licensed premises 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. There were no issues with any of the premises.

3.3 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 3 knowledge tests involving 5 candidates. 9 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

- 4.1 A letter of complaint was received from a female alleging that the driver of a taxi had been verbally abusive towards her when she had been moving a shopping trolley near to his taxi. The driver was interviewed and admitted that there had been a verbal exchange, but strenuously denied that he had been abusive in any way. However, he was written to and reminded that as a licensed taxi driver he was expected to behave in a civil and proper manner at all times when operating his taxi.
- 4.2 The complainant was advised of the 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: 28 October 2014

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None