

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – JULY 2015
Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date: 1 September 2015
Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook various aspects of enforcement in July 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 July 2015, 7 taxis 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 drivers 1215 and 1999 – both drivers were found not to be carrying taxi driver licence.

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

- 2.4 The drivers were advised to attend at the licensing offices and produce their taxi driver licence for inspection. They have now fully complied.

- 2.5 Following on from discussions between the licensing authority and taximeter companies/agents all of the taxi and private hire car operators were written to during the month regarding an update adjustment and sealing of taximeters. The Licensing Enforcement Officer was thereafter tasked with sealing the taximeters and attended to 157 taxis and 20 private hire cars.

3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS

- 3.1 During July 2015, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 5 civic licensing compliance checks and enquiries.
- 3.2 The compliance checks/enquiries involved the following civic activities:-
- Second Hand Dealers – three 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 for a licence was subsequently made.
 - Booking Office – one enquiry was made to identify a driver regarding a taxi complaint. A routine check was also carried out to ensure that the licence holder details were correct, that the licence was being displayed properly and that the booking register was being kept up to date. Everything was found to be in order.
- 3.3 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 2 knowledge tests involving 6 candidates. 5 site notice checks were also carried out.

4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS

A complaint was received from a male person alleging that a taxi driver had been parked in a disabled parking bay outside shop premises in Stenhousemuir. The complainer thought the taxi driver was waiting for a hire and had approached him to enquire if he was going to vacate the space, but the taxi driver had been allegedly dismissive and had stated that he could park there. The taxi driver was subsequently interviewed and admitted that he had been parked in the disabled parking bay, but that he was entitled to as he is registered disabled. He also confirmed that he had been waiting on his wife who had been in the shop.

A complaint was received from a female motorist alleging that a taxi driver had been driving very slowly on the A883 road approaching the Wheelhouse Roundabout where he had apparently cut across in front of her car without warning as she was negotiating the roundabout. She also claimed that when she had sounded her horn the taxi driver had put his hand out of his window and made a gesture towards her. The taxi driver was subsequently interviewed and strenuously denied that he had driven in such a manner. He was also adamant that he had not made any hand gesture towards another driver.

The 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 August 2015

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None