

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT – MAY 2013**  
**Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 5 June 2013**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Members will recollect that at the February meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee, the activity of enforcement within Civic Licensing was introduced for information.
- 1.2 It was agreed that future reports detailing enforcement action undertaken recently would be brought before Members for information.
- 1.3 Various aspects of enforcement undertaken by the Licensing Enforcement Officer in May 2013 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 May 2013, 31 taxis and 1 private hire car were inspected by the Licensing Enforcement Officer. All of these checks were in order with the exception of the following matters:-

Taxi Operator 072 – Rear plate positioned in the rear window.

This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 5.

Taxi Operator 122 – First aid kit and fire extinguisher were both missing from the vehicle.

In relation to the first aid kit this is a breach of the taxi inspection test.

The fire extinguisher is a breach of taxi licence condition number 8.

Taxi Operator 237 – First aid kit was missing from the vehicle.

This is a breach of the taxi inspection test.

Taxi Driver 1893 – The Driver was not carrying a taxi driver licence.

This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 8.

Taxi Operator 008 – First aid kit and fire extinguisher were both missing from the vehicle.

In relation to the first aid kit this is a breach of the taxi inspection test

The fire extinguisher is a breach of taxi licence condition number 8.

Taxi Operator 111 – Rear plate positioned in the rear window.

This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 5.

Taxi Operator 193 – Rear plate positioned in the rear window.

This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 5.

Taxi Operator 117 – Taximeter found to be running fast.

This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 26.

Taxi Operator 413 – Taximeter found to be running slow.

This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 26.

Taxi Operator 148 – Taximeter found to be running slow.

This is a breach of taxi licence condition number 26.

Taxi Driver 1774 – The driver was found to be not carrying a taxi driver licence or an identification badge.

This is a breach of taxi driver licence condition number 8.

- 2.4 All driver/ operators with outstanding issues were written to and requested to present the vehicle with missing equipment/ documentation at the Licensing section. All have now fully complied.

### **3. CIVIC LICENSING ENFORCEMENT CHECKS**

- 3.1 During May 2013, the Licensing Enforcement Officer undertook 37 civic licensing compliance checks/enquiries.

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

- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) – five enquiries carried out.

- Street Trader – four checks carried out.
- Second Hand Dealers – ten checks carried out.
- Late Hours Catering – thirteen checks carried out.
- Skin Piercing – one check carried out.
- Window Cleaner – three checks carried out.
- Wheelie Bin Cleaner – one check 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 in order with the exception of the following matters:-

- Unlicensed wheelie bin cleaner traced in Cunningham Gardens, Falkirk, as part of a joint-agency check involving Trading Standards and the Police. An official warning was given by the Police and the individual was advised to cease trading until a wheelie bin cleaner licence has been granted. A letter and application form was subsequently posted out.
- Unlicensed window cleaner traced in Wall Street, Camelon, Falkirk, as part of a joint-agency check involving Trading Standards and the Police. An official warning was given by Police and the individual was advised to cease working until a window cleaner licence has been granted. A letter and application form was subsequently posted out.
- Unlicensed window cleaner traced in Kersiebank Avenue, Grangemouth. The individual was advised to cease working until a window cleaner licence has been granted. A letter and application form was subsequently posted out.

3.5 In addition to the above, the Licensing Enforcement Officer carried out 5 taxi Knowledge tests involving 11 candidates. Fourteen site notice checks were also carried out.

#### **4. CIVIC LICENSING COMPLAINTS**

4.1 One complaint was received during May 2013, and was dealt with as follows:-

- A male motorist complained about a private hire car driver allegedly cutting into the path of his vehicle on the M80/M876 motorway causing him to brake abruptly. The private hire car driver was interviewed and she admitted to having pulled in front of the complainer, but added that she had indicated her intention at the time. A warning letter reminding the private hire car driver to drive in a safe and proper manner at all times was issued and her file

updated. A letter advising of the course of action undertaken was sent to the complainer.

## **5. RECOMMENDATION**

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

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**Chief Governance Officer**

**Date: 29 May 2013**

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

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None