

REGULATORY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, on
27 August 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillor Brian Connolly (Chair).
- Present Remotely: Councillors Andy Campbell, Ian Cavana, Ian Fitzsimmons, Mary Kilpatrick, Craig Mackay and Margaret Toner.
- Apologies: Councillors Alec Clark and Peter Convery.
- Attending: D. Scobie, Civic Licensing Standards Officer; E. Wyllie, Committee Services Officer; and K. Hancox, Clerical Assistant, Committee Services.
- Attending Remotely: M. Douglas, Team Leader (Licensing).
- Also Attending Remotely: Sergeant S. Barrie, Police Scotland.

1. Chair's Remarks.

The Chair took the sederunt and confirmed that today's meeting was not open to the press and public, which was permissible under the COVID-19 legislation. He also confirmed to Members the procedures to conduct this meeting.

Councillor Convery had joined the meeting but was unable to confirm his attendance and participate due to connectivity issues.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 19 March 2020 and 16 July 2020 (Special) (issued) were submitted and approved.

4. Update from Team Leader (Licensing).

The Team Leader (Licensing)

- provided an update on the impact of Covid 19 on the licensing service and advised that lockdown measures had led to the temporary closure of the testing centre and Council premises resulting in limited staff provision. Therefore, a decision was made to extend all licences for 3 months with this arrangement coming to an end on 31 July 2020;
- commented on the use of delegated powers during that period and on the outcome of two cases as a result; and

- confirmed that the testing centre had since re-opened although with reduced vehicle testing capacity and that the licensing service was now operating normally with modified arrangements in place.

Decided: to thank the Team Leader (Licensing) for her update.

5. **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 - Licences.**

(a) **Taxi Drivers.**

- (i) The Panel heard an observation from Police Scotland and from the applicant, Jack Grigor (who joined the meeting remotely) in response

Decided: to approve this application for three years, subject to standard conditions as previously agreed.

- (ii) Reference was made to the Minutes of 19 March 2020 (Page 1, paragraph 5(a)(ii)) when the Panel had decided to continue consideration of the application from Gary Eccles to a future meeting of this Panel to allow the applicant to attend.

Mr Eccles was due to join this meeting remotely, however, there appeared to be no telephone contact from him at this time. The Team Leader (Licensing) suggested that this application be continued as it was unknown if Mr Eccles was having connectivity issues.

Decided: that, under the circumstances, to continue consideration of this application to a future meeting of this Panel to allow the applicant to attend.

- (iii) The Panel heard an observation from Police Scotland and from the applicant, Robert Compton (who joined the meeting remotely) in response.

Decided: to approve this application for three years, subject to standard conditions as previously agreed.

Sergeant Barrie left the meeting at this point.

(b) **Taxi Vehicle Licence.**

- (i) The Panel heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence held by Samuel Prow (19/00814/HCVL: Vehicle Registration SF11EDL: Plate Number 100); and from the applicant (who joined the meeting remotely) in response.

Decided: not to suspend the above licence held by Samuel Prow, however, to agree that this vehicle should be inspected four monthly for a period of one year and any further failures to be brought to the attention of the Panel.

- (ii) The Panel heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence held by James Thorburn (19/00835/HCVL: Vehicle Registration W33 BKR: Plate Number 84); and from the applicant via a written statement.

Decided: not to suspend the above licence held by James Thorburn, however, to agree that this vehicle should be inspected four monthly for a period of one year and any further failures to be brought to the attention of the Panel.

(c) **Private Hire Vehicle Licence.**

The Panel heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence held by Hamilton Anderson (20/00258/PHVL: Vehicle Registration MW63 LVY: Plate Number 56); and from the applicant (who joined the meeting remotely) in response.

Decided: not to suspend the above licence held by Hamilton Anderson and not to impose any increased testing since this vehicle would be seven years old on 19 December 2020 and would be taken off the road at that point.

At this point, Gary Eccles (Taxi Driver) referred to at 5(a)(ii) above joined the meeting remotely, however, as Sergeant Barrie had already left the meeting, the Panel confirmed its decision to continue consideration of this matter to a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.10 a.m.