

REGULATORY PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, on
14 March 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Brian Connolly (Chair), Andy Campbell, Ian Cavana, Peter Convery, Ian Fitzsimmons, Mary Kilpatrick and Margaret Toner.

Apology: Councillor Craig Mackay.

Attending: M. Douglas, Team Leader (Licensing); R. Hannah, Fleet Officer; D. Scobie, Civic Licensing Standards Officer; and J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer.

Also Attending: Sergeant D. Dougan, Police Scotland.

1. Chair's Remarks.

The Chair outlined the procedures for the hearing process pertaining to the applications on the agenda.

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 the previous meetings of 14 February 2019 (issued) were submitted and approved.

4. Update from Civic Licensing Standards Officer.

The Civic Licensing Standards Officer advised

- (1) that, along with colleagues from Fleet Management, she had been continuing to inspect Taxi Vehicles in addition to the normal statutory testing of vehicles carried out by Arnold Clark on behalf of the Council;
- (2) that Taxi Vehicle inspections of 115 vehicles had now been completed, with 20 Civic Notices issued; 9 plates removed from vehicles; 11 notices issued for items to be attended to immediately; 8 advisory notices issued for vehicles requiring repairs to be carried out in the near future; and several fare cards issued to drivers as they were not on display in their vehicles which was a condition of the licence;
- (3) of the reasons for the above notices being issued;
- (4) that these were merely visual inspections of items which should be checked by drivers on a daily basis, however, it would still appear that these basic checks were not being carried out by all drivers;

- (5) that all taxi drivers were written to in advance of these brief inspections, therefore, it was surprising that a number of vehicles had been presented for inspection with easily noticeable and rectifiable issues; and that, while the majority of drivers who brought their cars for inspection understood the reasons behind the inspections, a small number felt that this was a waste of their time and their behaviour was unacceptable; and
- (6) that this had been a worthwhile piece of work with the taxis, however, this had been a one-off set of inspections which was time consuming and resource intensive, therefore only annual inspections from Arnold Clark and roadside/rank inspections for taxis would be carried out until the New Year when the position could be reviewed.

Having heard the Panel Members express their disappointment at the number of Notices that required to be issued and following questions from Members which were responded to by the Civic Licensing Standards Officer and the Fleet Officer, the Panel

- (a) thanked the officers involved for their work in this regard;
- (b) requested that this matter be raised with members of the taxi trade at the next meeting of the Private Hire and Taxi Operators Forum scheduled to be held on 7 May 2019; and
- (c) requested that Officers investigate the prospect of resources being made available to fund further inspections.

5. **Variation in Order of Business.**

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 13(2), the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

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

(a) **Taxi Drivers.**

The Panel considered the application from Joe Francis Westlake.

Decided: in the absence of the applicant, to continue consideration of this application to the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to be held on Thursday, 25 April 2019.

(b) **Taxi Vehicle Licence.**

The Panel considered the application from Catherine Marie Wilkie.

Decided: to continue consideration of this application to allow further information to be sought.

(c) **Second Hand Car Dealer.**

G and R Cars Limited for premises at 26 Garry Place, Troon, KA10 7JD.

The Panel considered the application from Richard Saxton, Company Director.

Decided: in the absence of the applicant, to continue consideration of this application to the next meeting of this Panel, scheduled to be held on Thursday, 25 April 2019.

7. **Exclusion of press and public.**

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the remaining item of business on the agenda, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

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

Taxi Drivers.

The Panel heard a representation from Police Scotland and from Steven Robert Grigor and his father in relation to his application.

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

The meeting ended at 10.30 a.m.