
TITLE: LICENSING OFFICERS UPDATE**COMMITTEE: LICENSING COMMITTEE****DATE: 9 MARCH 2016****AUTHOR: SENIOR LICENSING OFFICER****[Q213]**

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To update Members of the Licensing Committee on the work of Officers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 For information purposes only.

3.0 SUMMARY

3.1 Officers are pleased to advise Members that the new vehicle compliance scheme went live on 1 February 2016. Under this new scheme our approved garages notify us immediately when a licensed vehicle fails the MOT part of the compliance test and are therefore, considered unroadworthy. This notification enables the licensing authority to suspend a vehicle's licence with immediate effect until such time as the vehicle passes the compliance test.

3.2 In the first three weeks of this new scheme Officers have had to suspend three vehicle licences. All of the licence holders complied with the requirements, and re-presented their vehicles which subsequently passed the test. When the vehicle passed the test the garage notified us electronically, and the notices were lifted.

3.3 The newly introduced DVSA licence system is working well, and has helped to speed up the administrative process, as Officers had predicted.

3.4 All taxi licence holders have been advised that future newsletters will be supplied by email and will be placed on a special licence holder webpage. It is hoped that this change will reduce the time and cost associated with this important communication tool.

3.5 A new Order has been approved by central government which affects lotteries. Incidental non-commercial lotteries no longer have to be incidental to non-commercial events; they can be incidental to any event. The proceeds must still go to reasons other than private gain, but the draw no longer has to take place on the day that tickets are sold, which will enable these lotteries to be used for fundraising activities, such as balloon races.

3.6 Private lotteries, customer lotteries, workplace lotteries, and residents' lotteries have had their rules relaxed to allow any gain other than private gain to be permitted, and the level of information on the tickets has been reduced.

3.7 The changes in paragraph's 3.5 and 3.6 will come into effect on 1st April 2016.

- 3.8 The following tables illustrate the applications dealt with, the number of inspections conducted, and the number of suspension notices issued by the licensing section between 1 January 2016 and 22 February 2016:

Applications

| Licence type | Number |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Taxi driver | 48 |
| Taxi vehicle | 38 |
| Taxi operator | 5 |
| TEN's | 37 |
| New and varied premise licences | 4 |
| Animal welfare licences | 2 |
| Personal licences | 3 |
| Small lottery licences | 5 |
| DPS and transfers of premise licences | 11 |
| DBS criminal record applications | 5 |
| TOTAL | 158 (140 previous period) |

Inspections

| Inspection type | Number |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Complaint | 0 |
| Enforcement | 27 |
| Routine | 44 |
| Re-visit | 11 |
| Pre-application | 2 |
| TOTAL | 84 (94 previous period) |

A large number of these inspections in this period related to taxi vehicle and driver checks. The remaining visits were alcohol inspections.

Suspensions

| Suspension notice type | Number |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| DBS | 1 |
| Annual fee | 6 |
| Suspension notice becoming active | 1 (1 taxi driver) |

Issuing the above suspension notices gives the licence holder 21 days to resolve the issue before the suspension becomes active. The above shows that 6 of the 7 licence holders resolved the outstanding issue, and were not actually officially suspended. This figure is lower than the figure quoted on the previous report, and continues a downward trend.

In addition to the suspension notices issued above Officers issued 3 immediate suspension notices for vehicle MOT failures, and 1 immediate suspension notice of a driver's licence. The driver suspension remains in force.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Taxi driver – enforcement action | 1 |
| Taxi vehicle – MOT failures | 3 |