
TITLE: LICENSING OFFICERS UPDATE

COMMITTEE: Licensing Committee

DATE: 9 September 2015

AUTHOR: Senior Licensing Officer

[Q66]

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 On 23 July 2015 Officers of the Council were in Court to defend an appeal against the decision of Members to suspend a driver's joint Private Hire and Hackney Carriage driver's licence. The Court dismissed the appeal, and awarded a small costs order against the appellant.

3.2 On 24 July 2015 I attended Court to assist the prosecution with matters relating to the offender's Personal Licence. The Court agreed with our request to issue a forfeiture order, and as a result the individual who was found guilty of selling illicit alcohol and tobacco can no longer authorise alcohol sales.

3.3 Further to the recently approved amendments to the constitution, Officers have issued their first suspension notice for medical reasons. The individual concerned contacted the Council to advise that his health status had changed, and he could not drive. Officers thanked him, wished him a speedy recovery, but advised him that his licence would be suspended until he is able to provide a medical from his GP stating that he is once again fit to drive a group II level vehicle.

3.4 The new 3 and 5 year taxi fees which were approved for publication at July's meeting have gone through the required notice period. No objections were received and so the fees came into effect from 18 August 2015. These will not be used until the new rules come into effect on 1 October 2015.

3.5 A new computerised knowledge test will be introduced shortly which will enable Officers to offer more appointment slots for applicants, and the new system will also reduce the amount of Officer time taken to run the test. The cap on the number of tests that can be taken will also be removed once this new test is up and running.

- 3.6 The current compliance test will shortly be replaced with a combined MOT and compliance test. This will enable licence holders to apply for tax, and insurance online, and stop them from being incorrectly picked up on roadside ANPR cameras, and Police traffic cars as having no valid MOT. The frequency of the testing will remain the same, and the cost will also remain the same.
- 3.7 Two taxi Q & A sessions were held on 20 July 2015 to explain the changes caused by the Deregulation Act 2015, and to answer any other questions the trade may have. Unfortunately, only one person attended each session.
- 3.8 An ongoing programme of improving the licensing web pages is underway. The first pages to be improved for taxi licensing are now live.
- 3.9 An ongoing programme of centralising files and back scanning hard copy information is also underway. It is envisaged that this will improve efficiencies in the department as more information becomes available electronically.
- 3.9 The following table illustrates the applications dealt with by the licensing section between 15 July 2015 and 27 August 2015:

Licence type	Number
Taxi driver	14
Taxi vehicle	29
Taxi operator	2
TEN's	28
New and varied premise licences	6
Animal boarding	1
Personal licences	2
Small lottery licences	1
DPS and transfers of premise licences	24
DBS criminal record applications	16
TOTAL	123

- 3.10 In addition to the applications dealt with in the table above Officers have also conducted 11 visits to businesses to inspect compliance:

Inspection type	Number
Premise inspection	5
Taxi rank inspection	3
Potential un-licensed activity inspection	3

Background Documents

None

Location

Room SF208
The Grange,
Ely

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