

REGULATORY PANEL

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting of
30 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in
County Hall: Councillors Alan Lamont (Chair) and Ian Cavana.

Present Remotely: Councillors Mark Dixon, Lee Lyons and Craig Mackay.

Apologies: Councillors Alec Clark, Martin Kilbride and Duncan Townson.

Attending: L. McChristie, Co-ordinator (Licensing); C. Carroll, Service Lead – Housing Strategy and Regeneration; D. Scobie, Civic Licensing Standards Officer; G. Armstrong, Fleet Inspector; J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; and C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant.

Chair's Remarks

The Chair

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting; and
- (2) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live.

1. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

The Co-ordinator (Licensing) called the Sederunt for the meeting and having called the roll, confirmed that 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.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 20 March 2025

As Councillors Kilpatrick and Lyons were not in attendance at this meeting, they were not eligible to vote on these minutes.

As Councillor Mackay left during the meeting, he was also not eligible to vote.

The minutes of 20 March 2025 (issued) were submitted and approved.

Variation in Order of Business

In terms of Standing Order No. 13.3, the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

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

(a) **Short Term Lets**

(i) **12 Donnini Court, Ayr**

The Panel heard from the Service Lead – Housing Strategy and Regeneration, from the applicant and from the two objectors.

In terms of Standing Order No. 19.9, there was no general agreement to the unopposed motion, therefore, the Council moved to a vote for or against the Motion.

The Panel, by a majority

Decided: to approve this application, subject to standard conditions as previously agreed

(ii) **Flat C, 159 Welbeck Crescent, Troon**

The Panel heard from the Service Lead – Housing Strategy and Regeneration and from the applicant.

The Panel

Decided: to approve this application, subject to standard conditions as previously agreed

4. **Update from Civic Licensing Standards Officer**

The Civic Licensing Standards Officer

- (1) outlined the failure statistics for Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles for the first quarter of 2025 (1 January to 31 March), compared to the same period in 2024 as follows:-
 - (a) 16% failure rate for the twenty five Taxi Vehicles tested and four vehicles which failed; compared to 28% in 2024 when twenty nine Taxi Vehicles had been tested and eight had failed; and
 - (b) 8% failure rate for the forty eight Private Hire Vehicles tested and four failures as opposed to 9% in 2024 when forty six vehicles had been tested and four had failed;
- (2) highlighted the various reasons for the vehicles failing the test;
- (3) advised that there had been a decrease in Taxi Vehicles failing the inspection over this quarter compared with the first quarter of 2024 and that Private Hire Vehicles had stayed the same over this quarter compared with 2024;
- (4) advised that all operators would continue to be monitored and, if any operator failed a test with "do not drive" they would be cited to this Panel at the earliest opportunity;
- (5) advised that the next training course would run on Thursday 5 June 2025;

- (6) advised that the Licensing Team was extremely busy dealing with a significant number of applications for Public Entertainment Licences for events across the spring and summer, eg Ayr Agricultural Show, Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink; Pavilion Festival and several funfairs and many other events in South Ayrshire; and that an application for the Ayr Show was expected later in the year; and
- (7) advised that a new fare card for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles was being introduced this month which would be welcomed by the trade; and that the representatives for Digitax and ARA garage had been working together to update the meters with the new tariff.

The Panel, having thanked the Civic Licensing Standards Officer for her report,

Decided: to note the update.

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

(a) **Taxi Vehicle Licences**

The Panel heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer, from the Fleet Inspector and from the representative for the licence holder, Charles Bell, in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence currently held by him.

The Panel

Decided: to take no further action in relation to this matter.

(b) **Private Hire Vehicle Licences**

The Panel heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer, from the Fleet Inspector and from the licence holder, David Watson McFadyen, in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence currently held by him.

The Panel

Decided: to take no further action in relation to this matter.

The meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.