

REGULATORY PANEL

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting of
28 August 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present in
County Hall: Councillors Alan Lamont (Chair), Ian Cavana and Alec Clark.
- Present Remotely: Councillors Lee Lyons and Craig Mackay.
- Apologies: Councillors Martin Kilbride, Mary Kilpatrick and Duncan Townson.
- Attending: L. McChristie, Co-ordinator (Licensing); C. Carroll, Service Lead – Housing Strategy and Regeneration; G. Armstrong, Fleet Inspector; D. Scobie, Civic Licensing Standards Officer; 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 – 19 June 2025

As Councillors Cavana was not in attendance at this meeting, he was not eligible to vote on these minutes.

The minutes of 19 June 2025 (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. Update by Civic Licensing Standards Officer.

The Civic Licensing Standards Officer

- (1) outlined the failure statistics for Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles for the second quarter of 2025 (1 April to 30 June), compared to the same period in 2024 as follows:-
 - (a) 36% failure rate for the twenty two Taxi Vehicles tested and eight vehicles which failed; compared to 8% in 2024 when twenty seven Taxi Vehicles had been tested and two had failed; and

- (b) 10% failure rate for the forty one Private Hire Vehicles tested and four failures as opposed to 3% in 2024 when thirty five vehicles had been tested and one had failed;
- (2) referred to the significant increase in fails for both Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles during this period which was disappointing;
- (3) highlighted the various reasons for the vehicles failing the test;
- (4) advised that the Licensing Team had been extremely busy processing a wide range of applications and outlining the breakdown of Civic Licensing activity for the year to date;
- (5) advised that the Licensing Team continued to work closely with event organisers to ensure all required document, especially safety documentation was in place;
- (6) outlined all upcoming events and planning and other Civic Applications from January to August 2025;
- (7) advised that, as the festive season approached, it was anticipated that there would be an increase in applications for events such as Christmas Fayres, Markets and other seasonal activities and that applicants were encouraged to engage early with the Licensing Team and ensure applications were submitted at least 28 days prior to any proposed events; and
- (8) that the Licensing Team continued to manage a high volume of applications across all areas of Civic and Liquor Licensing and that early engagement remained key to ensuring applications were processed efficiently and public safety was upheld.

Comments were made by Members in relation to their disappointment at the unacceptable increase in failure rates; and that public safety was paramount; and the Civic Licensing Standards Officer advised that she would raise this issue at the next meeting of the Taxi and Private Hire Drivers Forum.

The Panel

Decided: to note the update from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer.

4. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 - Licences

As Councillor Cavana had not been present at the meeting of 19 June 2025 when the following application had previously been considered, he could not take part and therefore left the Hall during consideration of this application.

(a) Short Term Lets

13 Burgh Road, Prestwick

Reference was made to the Minutes of 19 June 2025 (Page 2, paragraph 3(a)(ii)) when the Panel had decided to continue consideration of this application to this meeting to request the applicant's agent to attend to explain the operation of this Short Term Let premises; and the Panel heard from the Service Lead – Housing Strategy and Regeneration and from the applicant's representative.

The Panel

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

Councillor Cavana re-joined the meeting at this point.

(b) Taxi Driver Licence

The Panel heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) and from the licence holder, Andrew Hamilton, in relation to his application.

The Panel

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

(c) Taxi Vehicle Licences

- (i) The Panel heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer, from the Fleet Inspector and from the licence holder's representative, in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence currently held by Peter Ogilvie.

The Panel

Decided: to take no further action.

- (ii) The Panel heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer, from the Fleet Inspector and from the licence holder's representative, in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence currently held by Jacqueline Weir.

The Panel

Decided: to take no further action.

- (iii) The Panel heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer and from the licence holder's representative in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence currently held by Marion McKee.

The Panel

Decided: to take no further action.

(d) **Late Hours Catering**

(i) **Ghani's Prestwick (Umar Farooq), 16 The Cross, Prestwick.**

The Panel heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) and from the applicant in relation to this application.

The Panel, following discussion with the applicant who agreed to amend his application,

Decided: to grant the above application subject to standard conditions as previously agreed, the approved hours being every Sunday to Thursday inclusive from 11.00p.m. to 1.00 a.m.; and every Friday and Saturday from 11.00 p.m. to 3.00 a.m.

(ii) **Zulfigar Ahmed for 64 Sandgate, Ayr**

The Panel heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) and from the applicant in relation to this application.

The Panel

Decided: to grant the above application subject to standard conditions as previously agreed, the approved hours being every Monday to Thursday inclusive from 11.00 p.m. to 1.30 a.m.; every Friday and Saturday from 11.00 p.m. to 3.00 a.m. and every Sunday from 11.00 p.m. to 1.30 a.m.

The meeting ended at 11.40 a.m.