

REGULATORY PANEL

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting of
22 January 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in County Hall: Councillors Alan Lamont (Chair), Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Wullie Hogg, Martin Kilbride, Duncan Townson and George Weir.

Present Remotely: Councillor Craig Mackay.

Apology: Councillor Mary Kilpatrick.

Attending: L. McChristie, Co-ordinator (Licensing); D. Scobie, Civic Licensing Standards Officer; J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; and C. McCallum, Clerical Assistant.

In Attendance: Sergeant D. Markin and D. Hastings, Police Scotland.

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

As Councillor Mackay was not in attendance at this meeting, he was not eligible to vote on these minutes. Councillor Hogg declared an interest in an item on these Minutes so was also ineligible to vote.

The minutes of 27 November 2025 (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. Civic Licensing Standards Officer Update

The Civic Licensing Standards Officer

- (1) outlined the failure statistics for Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles for the final quarter of 2025 (1 October to 31 December), compared to the same period in 2024 as follows:-
 - (a) 9% failure rate for the twenty three Taxi Vehicles tested and two vehicles which failed; compared to 27% in 2024 when thirty seven Taxi Vehicles had been tested and ten failed; and

- (b) a 0% failure rate for the fifty Private Hire Vehicles tested and no failures as opposed to 7% in 2024 when forty three vehicles had been tested and three failed;
- (2) advised that both Taxi and Private Hire failure figures had decreased significantly over this period;
- (3) outlined that two of the taxi failures had been classified as “repair immediately” due to major defects;
- (4) advised of the figures for the same period pre-pandemic in 2019; and also the figures for the same period for every year from 2021; and
- (5) outlined that all operators who failed a test would continue to be monitored and any operator failing a test with “do not drive” would continue to be cited to this Panel at the earliest opportunity.

The Panel, having welcomed the decreased rate for failures of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles,

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

4. **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 following two items 5(a)(i) and 5(a)(ii) on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

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

(a) **Taxi Drivers**

- (i) The Panel heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing), from Police Scotland and from the applicant, Gordon Walker in relation to his application.

Six Members voted for the unopposed Motion and two Members voted against the Motion; and the Panel

Decided: to approve this licence for one year, subject to standard conditions as previously agreed.

- (ii) The Panel heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) who advised that the Chief Governance Officer had taken a decision to suspend the licence previously held by Mukhtar Ahmad Azimi in terms of Paragraph 11(2)(a) and/or (2)(c) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, due to the carrying on of the licensed activity is causing, or is likely to cause a serious threat to public safety and that the Panel were now requested to consider suspension of this licence in terms of Paragraph 12(1) of the Act.

The Panel then heard from Police Scotland and from the licence holder, Mukhtar Ahmad Azimi in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence currently held by him, under Paragraph 12(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The Panel

Decided: to suspend the licence currently held by Mukhtar Ahmad Azimi immediately for its unexpired duration as, in their opinion, the licence holder is not, or is no longer, a fit and proper person to hold the licence and the carrying on of the licensed activity, is causing, or is likely to cause a serious threat to public safety.

(b) Training

The Panel considered the proposed suspension of various licences as the licence holders had not completed the mandatory training.

The Panel

Decided:

- (i) having heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer, that as Lorna Jane Allardyce had not completed training, to suspend the licence held by her for its unexpired duration with immediate effect on the ground that a condition of the licence has been contravened; and to grant delegated powers to the Service Lead - Legal and Licensing to reinstate this licence once proof of completion of the training course had been exhibited;
- (ii) having heard the Civic Licensing Standards Officer advise that Aslam Syed had booked a place on the next scheduled training course of 6 February 2026, to take no further action at this time; and to grant delegated powers to the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing to suspend this licence should the appropriate training not be undertaken by 6 February 2026 or by the earliest training date, should the date be changed by Ayr College;
- (iii) having heard the Chair advise that the following had surrendered their licences, to take no further action in relation to these licence holders:
 - (A) Zabihullah Sarwari; and
 - (B) Mourad Gani.

6. 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 grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

7. Training

The Panel considered the proposed suspension of the licence held by Cheuk Wai Chan as he had not completed the mandatory training. Having heard Mr Chan advise that he would book a place on the training course scheduled to take place on 6 February 2026, the Panel

Decided: to take no further action at present; and to grant delegated powers to the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing to suspend this licence should the appropriate training not be undertaken by 6 February 2026 or by the earliest training date, should the date be changed by Ayr College.

The meeting ended at 11.13 a.m.