

REGULATORY PANEL

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting of
30 April 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Apology: Councillor Craig Mackay.

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

Chair's Remarks

The Chair

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting; and
- (2) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting, including that this meeting would be recorded and placed on the Council's website at a later date; and that all votes would be taken by roll call or by ensuring that all Members were in agreement.

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 of 19 March 2026

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

The minutes of 19 March 2026 (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. 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 2026 (1 January to 31 March), compared to the same period in 2025 as follows:-
 - (a) 14% failure rate for the twenty two Taxi Vehicles tested and three vehicles which failed; compared to 16% in 2025 when twenty five Taxi Vehicles had been tested and four had failed; and
 - (b) 13% failure rate for the forty seven Private Hire Vehicles tested and six failures as opposed to 8% in 2025 when forty eight 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 2025 and that Private Hire Vehicle failures had increased over this quarter compared with 2025;
- (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 Monday 4 May 2026; and
- (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 Monster Truck Event, Air Show, Ayr Agricultural Show, Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink; Pavilion Festival and several funfairs and many other events in South Ayrshire.

The Panel, having thanked the Civic Licensing Standards Officer for her report and having expressed concerns at the increase in failure rates for Private Hire Vehicles,

Decided: to note the update.

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

(a) **Late Hours Catering**

McDonalds Restaurant, Whitletts Road, Ayr

The Panel heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) and from the applicant's representative in relation to the above application.

The Panel

Decided: to approve this application, subject to standard conditions as previously agreed, the approved hours being Monday to Sunday inclusive from 11.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.

(b) **Short Term Lets**

Orchard Flat, 2D Racecourse View, Ayr

The Panel heard from the Service Lead – Housing Strategy and Regeneration; from the applicant's representative; and from the representative for the two objectors; and adjourned for consideration of this application.

Upon reconvening, Councillor Martin Kilbride, seconded by Councillor Wullie Hogg, moved that this application be approved for one year subject to the conditions that there is no parking by guests at any time and that service vehicles should only park for scheduled routine appointments which should be notified to the objectors in writing at least three days prior to the appointment, which conditions are subject to any title conditions.

A vote was undertaken by means of a roll call For or Against the Motion as follows:

Alan Lamont	For
Ian Cavana	For
Alec Clark	For
Wullie Hogg	For
Martin Kilbride	For
Mary Kilpatrick	Against
Duncan Townson	Against
George Weir	For

Two Members voted against the Motion and six Members voted for the Motion and accordingly the Panel

Decided: to approve this application for one year subject to the conditions that there is no parking by guests at any time; that service vehicles should only park for scheduled routine appointments which should be notified to the objectors in writing at least three days prior to the appointment which conditions are subject to any title conditions; and subject to standard conditions as previously agreed.

(c) **Taxi Drivers**

- (i) The Panel heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) and from the representative of the applicant, Colin McCallum in relation to his application.

The Panel

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

- (ii) The Panel heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) in relation to his application.

The Panel

Decided: in the absence of the applicant, Daniel Crossan, to continue consideration of this application to a future meeting of this Panel to allow the applicant to attend in person.

- (iii) There was submitted a report (issued to Members Only) by the Chief Governance Officer inviting Panel Members to consider the suspension of the taxi driver licence held by Duncan Paul for licence number HCDL 24/00083/HCDL.

Having heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) and from the licence holder, the Panel

Decided: that, as the licence was still in force, to take no action at this time, however, Mr Paul should submit documentation within two weeks of 22 November 2026 to demonstrate that he meets Group 2 medical standards; and that, should this information not be provided, that delegated powers be granted to the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing to suspend the licence.

- (iv) The Panel considered the proposed suspension of the licence currently held by Hanad Sharif as he had not completed the mandatory training.

Having heard from the Civic Licensing Standards Officer, the Panel

Decided: in the absence of the applicant, that, as Mr Sharif had not completed training, to suspend his licence for its unexpired duration with immediate effect on the ground that a condition of the licence has been contravened.

(e) Private Hire Vehicle

There was submitted a report (issued to Members Only) by the Chief Governance Officer seeking the Panel's decision on whether to allow a private hire vehicle which did not meet the current policy requirements regarding vehicle specifications, to be used as a private hire vehicle in South Ayrshire.

Having heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) and from the licence holder, John Grigor, the Panel

Decided:

- (1) to accept the email from Mr Grigor dated 9 March 2026, as a request for an exemption for vehicle SD24 FUE from the vehicle specifications in the current taxi and private hire policy;
- (2) to grant the request for exemption for vehicle SD24 FUE to the current policy requirements subject to the conclusion of the review of the current policy;
- (3) to grant delegated powers to the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing to revoke the exemption if the review of the current policy concluded to keep the vehicle specification for side loading vehicles only; and
- (4) to impose a condition in the licence to oblige the licence holder to ensure all luggage carried in the vehicle is safe and secure at all times.

5. 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 agenda 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.

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

Private Hire Driver

There was submitted a report (issued to Members Only) by the Chief Governance Officer presenting an application for a private hire driver licence 26/00088/PHDL by Mr Iwan Kulakowski for determination by the Panel.

Having heard from the Co-ordinator (Licensing) and from the licence holder, the Panel

Decided: to refuse this application 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.

The meeting ended at 12.40 p.m.