

Minutes of General Licensing Sub-Committee Panel

Meeting date Tuesday, 9 November 2021

Members present: Councillors James Flannery (Chair), Peter Mullineaux,

Alan Ogilvie and Renee Blow

Officers: Chris Ward (Interim Licensing Team Leader), Justin Abbotts

(Licensing Officer), Stephanie Fairbrother (Licensing Officer), Tasneem Safdar (Shared Legal Services Team Leader) and Clare Gornall (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Public: 0

44 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Forrest.

45 Declarations of Any Interest

There were none.

46 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED:-

That the press and public be excluded for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

47 Request for Policy Exemption

The General Licensing Sub-Committee Panel was convened to consider an application from a licensed Private Hire Operator, for an exemption on his new vehicle from displaying the private hire vehicle plates and a further exemption to allow low level tint on his new vehicle.

The Panel were informed that the applicant was on his way to the hearing and would be delayed by approximately 15 minutes. The Panel were advised that the applicant gave his approval for the Panel to start proceedings and for him to be interviewed upon his arrival, as he had already reviewed the report to the Panel.

RESOLVED:— That the Panel commence consideration of the matter and that the applicant be interviewed upon his arrival.

Mr Justin Abbotts, Licensing Officer, presented a report requesting an exemption to paragraph 7.13 to the Current Policy requiring Private Hire Vehicle plates to be

displayed and a further exemption to paragraph 7.5 to allow low level tint, on a new vehicle.

The report indicated that historically for this Private Hire Operator exemptions from displaying the private hire vehicle plates on his vehicles had been granted. The report also indicated that due to the nature of the work conducted and the sensitivity of clients transported, the vehicles needed not to display Private Hire vehicle licence plates, and tinted windows were required to obscure clients from view.

The report informed members that Under section 75(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council can waive the requirement to display the licence plate, other markings and the driver's badge, by issuing a notice which can be carried effectively in lieu of the licence plate being displayed. This is common practice in relation to vehicles used for chauffeur driven/executive hire as opposed to regular Private Hire bookings.

Members of the Panel asked the following questions in relation to the application /report and the following responses were given:

- With regard to the cost of the vehicle, this is a reference to the fact that the vehicle was of a high standard rather than the actual cost itself. To clarify, the Legal Services Officer explained that the relevant factors to consider were the make and model of the vehicle, the condition of the vehicle, contracted work which is dependent on use of the vehicle, and the business of the private hire operator.
- It was clarified that the term 'low level tints' indicated the request was for the tints to be darker.
- With regard to Policy requirement that the exemption (if granted) would apply exclusively to the contracted work requiring the exemption it was clarified that the applicant was required to keep a log of all clients and jobs to be made available for inspection by licensing officers.
- It was queried whether the request was intended for the life of vehicle ownership. The Committee would clarify with the applicant.

Upon his arrival the Panel interviewed the applicant and he responded as follows:

-With regard to Policy requirement that the exemption (if granted) would apply exclusively to the contracted work requiring the exemption and would he be able to provide evidence. The applicant confirmed that he would use the vehicle solely for the contracted work specified and that he could provide a record of his accounts and a log of clients and jobs carried out.

-With regard to the length of the exemption, the applicant indicated his request was for the duration of the licence. He intended to keep the vehicle approximately five years.

The Panel then inspected the vehicle at the Civic Centre, Leyland.

RESOLVED:-

i) That the application for an exemption to paragraph 7.13 to the Current

Policy requiring Private Hire Vehicle plates to be displayed and an exemption to paragraph 7.5 to allow low level tint, on a new vehicle, be granted; and	
i)	That the above exemptions be applied for the duration of the licence.

Date

Chair