

Regulation and Review Committee (Panel)

Thursday, 9 February 2023

Present: Councillor T Mulvenna (Chair)
Councillors L Bones, P Earley and J O'Shea

In attendance:
Councillors

Apologies: Councillors John Hunter

RQ11/23 To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Notification of any Dispensations Granted

There were no declarations or dispensations reported.

RQ12/23 Exclusion Resolution

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test in accordance with Part 2 of Schedule 12A the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items 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 Act.

RQ13/23 Private Hire Driver's Licence Disciplinary Referral - Mr O

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Public Protection which outlined the background to a referral relating to the holder of a Private Hire Driver's licence, Mr O.

The Committee was requested to determine whether any disciplinary action was required and to assess Mr O's continued suitability to carry out the duties of a licensed driver.

A Licensing Officer and Mr O attended the meeting. Mr O was accompanied by a friend.

The Licensing Officer presented the report and answered questions from members of the Committee.

Mr O was given the opportunity to ask questions of the Licensing Officer.

Mr O then addressed the Committee.

Members of the Committee then asked questions of Mr O and sought clarification on a number of matters.

Following a summing up from the Licensing Officer and Mr O, both parties left the meeting room to allow consideration of the matter to be undertaken in private.

The options available to the Committee were:

- take no action
- issue a warning as to the driver's future conduct
- suspend the driver's licence; or
- revoke the driver's licence

In determining its response the Committee took into account all that had been presented and contained within the papers submitted to the meeting and had regard to Section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards.

RESOLVED that Mr O remains a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Driver's licence and be issued with a warning as to his future conduct.

RQ14/23 Private Hire Driver's Licence Disciplinary Referral - Ms P

The Committee received a report from the Head of Public Protection in relation to Ms P, a Private Hire Driver.

Ms P had been invited to the meeting but was not in attendance.

The Committee determined that Ms P should be provided with one more opportunity to attend and address the Committee in person.

RESOLVED that Ms P's case be adjourned and considered at a future meeting.

(Councillor J O'Shea left the meeting prior to the consideration of the next case)

RQ15/23 Private Hire Driver's Licence Disciplinary Referral - Mr K

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Public Protection which outlined the background to a referral relating to the holder of a Private Hire Driver's licence, Mr K.

The Committee was requested to determine whether any disciplinary action was required and to assess to Mr K's continued suitability to carry out the duties of a licensed driver.

A Licensing Officer and Mr K attended the meeting, along with Mr K's legal representatives.

The Licensing Officer presented the report and answered questions from members of the Committee.

Mr K and his legal representatives were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Licensing Officer.

Mr K's legal representatives then addressed the Committee.

Members of the Committee then asked questions of Mr K and sought clarification on a number of matters.

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Following a summing up from the Licensing Officer and Mr K's representative, both parties left the meeting room to allow consideration of the matter to be undertaken in private.

The options available to the Committee were:

- take no action
- issue a warning as to the driver's future conduct
- suspend the driver's licence; or
- revoke the driver's licence

In determining its response the Committee took into account all that had been presented and contained within the papers submitted to the meeting and had regard to Section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards.

RESOLVED that Mr K's Private Hire Driver's licence be revoked with immediate effect as he was no longer considered to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence with this Authority.