

PUBLIC PROTECTION LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 16th May, 2023.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor P. Drake (Chair); Councillor J.M. Norman (Vice-Chair); Councillors G. Bruce, L. Burnett, V.P. Driscoll, R. Fisher, C.P. Franks, E. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, N.B. Marshallsea, M.J.G. Morgan and S.T. Wiliam.

12 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors H.C. Hamilton, R. Sivagnanam and M.R. Wilkinson.

14 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 18th April, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

16 EXEMPTION FROM PRIVATE HIRE PLATE AND DOOR STICKER REQUIREMENTS (DEH) –

The report was presented by the Licensing Team Manager for Committee to consider a request by Mr. Rhys Wilton to be exempt from the requirement to display door stickers or a licence plate on his Private Hire Vehicle.

The Licensing Team Manager said that the report had been deferred from the previous Public Protection Licensing Committee meeting in April 2023 to allow Mr. Wilton to be in attendance.

Mr. Wilton had advised Officers that his business model was to offer an executive operation rather than the traditional private hire business and therefore the

passengers would expect a non-liveried vehicle but the current private hire legislation, which dated back to 1976, did not distinguish between different types of business model.

Councillor Norman asked if Mr. Wilton would only be driving for one company. Mr. Wilton confirmed it would involve unit driving purely for television and film productions. He added that it was a requirement of the TV and film industry to have unmarked vehicles to provide anonymity for the clients. Were he to engage in any private hire work, he would display the plates and stickers on his car accordingly.

Councillor Morgan asked to clarify if Section 75 of the 1976 Act gave the Committee discretion to dispense with the requirements. The Licensing Team Manager said there was a provision within the legislation to exempt a private hire vehicle proprietor from displaying the rear plate.

The Chair asked Mr. Wilton if his offer of employment with CBS was conditional on the decision made by the Committee. Mr. Wilton said he had worked in the TV and film industry for many years and work would not always be with CBS but would always be with a South Wales film production company, and that unit drivers wore their licenses around their necks to show that they were a licensed driver.

No further questions or points of clarification were sought, so the Chair opened discussion to Members.

Councillor Norman said that similar matters had been considered by the Committee previously and was a valid request if the relevant conditions were met. It also raised a standard for welcoming related TV and film industries to the area so was in support of the application.

Councillor Morgan agreed and thought it would be unfair to preclude Mr. Wilton from employment if other drivers were able to work similarly. He agreed with Councillor Norman that there was a developing film industry in South Wales and that should be supported as a Council and therefore supported the application. His comments were echoed by Councillor Marshallsea. The Leader also agreed that the relevant safeguards that the Council insisted upon were there and therefore supported the application.

The application was put to the vote and was unanimously agreed.

Having fully considered the matter, Committee subsequently:

RESOLVED – T H A T the exemptions be granted to Mr. Wilton for both Conditions 8 and 9 relating to Private Hire vehicles in respect of applications made for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence, for vehicle registration CK69 XVG.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

17 APPLICATION TO WAIVE AGE POLICY GUIDELINES FOR FIRST LICENSING OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE (DEH) –

The report was presented by the Licensing Team Manager for Committee to determine an application for the grant of a vehicle which fell outside the current age policy guidelines approved by the Public Protection Committee.

The Licensing Team Manager advised the Committee that Mr. Mais had indicated that he would be unable to attend the meeting as he had a school contract on Tuesdays and Thursdays which involved a child with sensitive needs and would be to the detriment of that child if there were a break in their transportation schedule. As such, he would have a problem in attending to have his application heard and had requested to have his application determined in his absence.

Committee were also asked to note a further matter of clarification that required an amendment to Paragraph 1.4 of the published report, as the vehicle's first date of registration was in 2014, not 2016, and therefore the car was just under 9 years old.

The Chair asked for Committee's feedback on determining the application in the applicant's absence.

Councillor Morgan had no issue with determining the application as the applicant had missed the renewal on his license by technicality, because the vehicle was off the road. Councillor Burnett agreed, adding that the taxi industry had been under increasing pressure which had had a knock-on effect for those requiring taxis as school transportation.

Councillor Norman said that she was happy to support the application as long as the car continued to be regularly checked and deemed to be a suitable vehicle for its purpose.

The application was put to the vote and was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED – T H A T the request to waive the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Age Policy Guidelines in respect of vehicle Ford Mondeo, registration number CU64 NCD be granted as the vehicle was suitable in type, size and design in accordance with Section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to be licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.