

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a hybrid meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2025.

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

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

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

Also present: Councillors R.E. Godfrey and Dr. I.J. Johnson.

### 362 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”.

### 363 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors B. Dodd and R. Fisher.

### 364 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

### 365 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### 366 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BOTH THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CONDITIONS (DEH) –

The report, presented to Committee by the Licensing Team Manager, sought approval to consult with the taxi and private hire trade within the Vale of Glamorgan, on proposed amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions.

The proposed amendments were to remove conditions restricting the use of citizens band (CB) radios or scanners, following a request from a licensed driver.

Following presentation of the report, the Taxi Driver requesting the amendment, Mr. Allinson, who was in attendance at the meeting, advised the following as part of his representations, and in response to questions from Committee Members:

- Mr. Allinson had been a Taxi Driver for 36 years, during which time this condition had been removed and then later reinstated.
- Mr. Allinson was only interested in having a CB radio in his car, and not a Frequency Scanner.
- Many of the other Taxi Drivers that Mr. Allinson knew, who also were interested in CB radio, were independent drivers, who did not work for any taxi firm, and therefore did not have any such help on hand in the case of an emergency.
- Mr. Allinson would not be using a CB radio for business, it was more of a safety measure and personal interest which he shared with many others.
- Mr. Allinson did not expect other Taxi Drivers to use a CB radio for business purposes. He advised that most drivers used an app for receiving information for their Taxi work, and so there would be separation of the two different communication channels.
- CB radios could be adapted to be used 'hands-free'.
- Mr. Allinson never used a CB radio while transporting passengers for a taxi fare, it was only for personal use, and would only be used when his car was stationary.
- Compared to using a mobile phone, you could speak to multiple people at once using CB radio - which, in an emergency could enable assistance to reach you more quickly. CB radio would also continue functioning in the event of not having mobile network coverage.
- The reason for using CB radio in a car was to make it mobile and therefore extend its range.

Additional information regarding CB radio was provided by Mr. Allinson and was read out by the Democratic Services Officer.

The Licensing Team Manager subsequently explained that Mr. Allinson had only one vehicle for both his personal use and for his Taxi work, and that Hackney Carriage vehicles must always comply with this condition, even when not being used for work. They also advised that Swansea and Carmarthenshire Local Authorities had similar conditions regarding CB radios and scanners.

The Principal Lawyer advised that the relevant case law was clear that once a vehicle was licensed, it was always viewed as a taxi vehicle. It was not possible to change the status of the vehicle once licensed and, in that sense, there was no way to distinguish between its personal and work use. They added that it was the Committee's consideration as to whether merging a personal hobby with a working vehicle was appropriate.

With no further comments or questions, Committee subsequently:

RESOLVED – T H A T Officers be authorised to carry out a 14-day consultation with the taxi and private hire trade, which must include consultation with the Police, on removing the following condition from both the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Conditions:

““A frequency scanner or CB radio shall not be fitted into or carried within any vehicle”.

Reason for decision

To gain the views of representatives of the trade, but also those of the Police, particularly in relation to the safety of permitting frequency scanners and CB radios in licensed vehicles, ahead of a decision being made on whether to remove the condition or not.

367 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

RESOLVED – T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

368 APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE (DEH) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

The report, presented by the Licensing Team Manager, sought to determine whether an applicant was a fit and proper person to continue with the application process to become a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver, following reports from the Officer invigilating the Knowledge Test that The Applicant was looking at other documentation whilst sitting the test. A statement from the Officer invigilating the exam, and photographic evidence of documents that the Applicant brought into the test, were included in the Agenda Papers.

The Applicant attended the meeting to make their representations, and was asked a series of questions regarding the circumstances surrounding the test, and the documents referred to above.

After private deliberation, and with the matter being put to a vote, it was subsequently:

RESOLVED – T H A T, having regard to the report, the Guidelines adopted by the Public Protection Licensing Committee and the representations made by the Applicant, the Committee determined that they were not satisfied that the Applicant was a fit and proper person to continue with the application process for a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence.

### Reason for decision

The Applicant had sat the test several times, and would have had the rules of the exam conditions explained to them each time. On the test in question, the Applicant was advised by the Officer, both at the beginning of and during the test, that any documents which they had brought with them to the exam had to be placed away from them. Therefore, Members were satisfied that the Applicant would have been aware that they were not to have notes either on, or near their table. Members were not satisfied that the documents were looked at in error by the Applicant. The Committee were satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities, it was most likely that the Applicant had acted in a dishonest manner, in order to gain an unfair advantage in the test, and therefore the Committee were not satisfied that the Applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a Taxi Driver's license.

This decision was in accordance with Section 5.15 of the Guidance on Determining the Suitability of Applicants and Licensees in the Hackney and Private Hire Trades, which was adopted by the Committee in September 2019, and states that:

*“Any dishonesty by any applicant or other person on the applicant's behalf which is discovered to have occurred in any part of any application process (e.g. failure to declare convictions, false names or addresses, falsified references) will result in a licence being refused, or if already granted, revoked and may result in prosecution.”*

A full statement of reasons for the decision was provided to the Applicant with their decision letter.