



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

CIVIC GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL

Minute of Meeting held in Committee Room 1 /
MS Teams, Council Offices, Stornoway on
Wednesday 20 November 2024 at 10.00am.

PRESENT Mr Norman Macdonald (Chair)
Mr Iain A MacNeil
Mr George Murray
Mr Finlay Stewart

APOLOGIES Mr Ranald Fraser

IN ATTENDANCE Mr Derek Mackay, Chief Executive's Department
Mr Tim Langley, Chief Executive's Department
Mrs Shona Hadwen, Chief Executive's Department
Sgt Sarah Paterson, Police Scotland
Applicant CD (Item 4)
Applicant EF (Item 5)

Appointment of Chair 1 The Clerk called for nominations for Chair of the Civic Government Licensing Panel.

It was agreed to appoint Mr Norman Macdonald as Chair of the Civic Government Licensing Panel for the meeting.

TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENSING

Procedure Note 2 The Chief Executive submitted a Procedure Note detailing the procedure to be followed by the Panel.

It was agreed to note the terms of the Procedure Note.

It was agreed that the public including the press be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following 3 items on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Comhairle, would be disclosed.

Representation to a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence Application 3* The Chief Executive submitted a Report in relation to an application for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence by applicant AB. The Report stated that the licensing authority had received a representation to the application from Chief Superintendent Rob Shepherd, Police Scotland dated 13 June 2024. Applicant AB had been subsequently contacted to confirm that they had received the Police Scotland representation letter and they acknowledged that the matter would be considered by the Civic Government Licensing Panel.

The Panel were informed that the applicant would not be attending the meeting.

Sgt Sarah Paterson, representing Police Scotland was invited into the meeting and was given the opportunity to address the Panel in relation to the representations to AB's application. The Panel were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

Sgt Paterson withdrew from the meeting while the Panel deliberated.

Having considered the Report together with the representations from Police Scotland, the Panel agreed to refuse the application for a Private Hire Car Driver's licence because, taking into account the nature of the applicant's conviction, the Panel are of the view that they are not a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Car Drivers' licence.

Mr George Murray declared an interest in item 4 and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Representation to a
Taxi Driver's
Licence Application 4*

The Chief Executive submitted a Report in relation to an application for a Taxi Driver's Licence by applicant CD. The Report stated that the licensing authority had received a representation to the application from Chief Superintendent Rob Shepherd, Police Scotland dated 19 July 2024. Applicant CD had been subsequently contacted to confirm that they had received the Police Scotland representation letter and they acknowledged that the matter would be considered by the Civic Government Licensing Panel.

Sgt Sarah Paterson, representing Police Scotland and applicant CD were invited into the meeting and were given the opportunity to address the Panel in relation to CD's application for a Taxi Driver's Licence. The Panel were afforded the opportunity to ask questions. Both parties were given the opportunity to sum up.

Both parties withdrew while the Panel deliberated.

Having considered the Report together with the representations from Police Scotland and applicant CD, the Panel agreed to refuse the application for a Taxi Hire Car Driver's licence because, taking into account the nature of the applicant's convictions and the misrepresentation of a conviction by applicant CD, the Panel are of the view that they are not a fit and proper person to hold a Taxi Hire Car Drivers' licence.

Representation to a
Taxi Driver's
Licence Application 5*

The Chief Executive submitted a Report in relation to an application for a Taxi Driver's Licence by applicant EF. The Report stated that the licensing authority had received a representation to the application from Chief Superintendent Rob Shepherd, Police Scotland dated 24 October 2024. Applicant EF had been subsequently contacted to confirm that they had received the Police Scotland representation letter and they acknowledged that the matter would be considered by the Civic Government Licensing Panel.

Sgt Sarah Paterson, representing Police Scotland and applicant EF were invited into the meeting and were given the opportunity to address the Panel in relation to EF's application for a Taxi Driver's Licence. The Panel were afforded the opportunity to ask questions. Both parties were given the opportunity to sum up.

Both parties withdrew while the Panel deliberated.

Having considered the Report together with the representations of applicant EF and Police Scotland, the Panel agreed to approve the application for a Taxi Drivers' licence.