

**Report of the Assistant Director to the
General Licensing Regulatory Board
to be held on the 20 December 2023**

LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the enforcement work Licensing Officers have recently undertaken.

2. Background

Members are minded to note, that Licensing Officers have continued to proactively work with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade and other Local Authority Departments and partners to ensure that any issues and concerns within the trades are raised and addressed accordingly.

On the 4th and 10th November and the 2nd December 2023 Licensing Officers carried out 3 taxi and private hire licensing enforcement operations in the town centre. A summary of the enforcement operations are detailed below.

3. Current Position

On the 4th November 2023 Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Officers from South Yorkshire Police and Wolverhampton Licensing Authority took part in a night-time operation focusing their attention in Barnsley town centre and the drivers and vehicles that work in the night-time economy. The Chair of the Licensing Regulatory Board, Councillor S Green, was also in attendance.

In total 10 licensed vehicles and drivers were inspected on the night, all of which were licensed by other Local Authorities being: -

- 2 vehicles and drivers licensed by Calderdale;
- 4 vehicles and drivers licensed by Wolverhampton;
- 2 vehicles and drivers licensed by Sheffield
- 1 vehicle and driver licensed by Leeds
- 1 vehicle and driver licensed by Chesterfield

As part of this operation Wolverhampton Licensing Officers suspended 3 of their licensed vehicles for issues in relation to door signage. In addition, the Officers working also ensured that all of the drivers and vehicles checked could evidence their customers bookings.

On the 10th November 2023 Licensing Enforcement Officers carried out a day-time operation focusing their attention in Barnsley town centre and the drivers and vehicles that work in the day-time economy.

In total 12 licensed vehicles and drivers were inspected on the day, all of which were Barnsley licensed drivers and vehicles and all were found to be compliant.

On the 2nd December 2023 Licensing Officers alongside Officers from South Yorkshire Police and Licensing Officers from Wolverhampton, Leeds and Sheffield Local Authorities all took part in a night-time operation focusing their attention in Barnsley town centre and the drivers and vehicles that work in the night-time economy. The Chair of the Licensing Regulatory Board, Councillor S Green, was also in attendance.

During the operation Officers focused their attention on vehicles and drivers that were licenced by Licensing Authorities outside of Barnsley. A total of 19 vehicles were stopped on the night, all of which were licensed by other Local Authorities. The results of which are detailed below: -

- 2 vehicles and drivers licensed by Calderdale;
- 2 vehicles and drivers licensed by Wolverhampton;
- 5 vehicles and drivers licensed by Sheffield
- 1 vehicle and driver licensed by Leeds
- 2 vehicles and driver licensed by Chesterfield
- 2 vehicles and drivers licensed by Wakefield
- 4 vehicles and drivers licensed by Rotherham
- 1 vehicle and driver licensed by Bradford

As part of the operation, Licensing Officers from all authorities involved checked their own licensed vehicles and drivers accordingly and took their own enforcement action if necessary.

In addition, the Officers working also ensured that all of the drivers and vehicles checked could evidence their customers bookings.

Vehicle and driver non-compliance is an issue Officers are concerned with during the undertaking of each and every enforcement operation. Regardless of which authority issued the licences, defective vehicles are not acceptable and cannot be excused and officers will continue to pro-actively enforce both the legislation and our local conditions accordingly.

4. Proposal

Proactive joint enforcement operations will continue to take place on a regular basis. Vehicle failures are always unacceptable, and our operations must convey the message that operators, vehicle proprietors and drivers must accept responsibility for any failures and make a change. All Licensing Authorities have clear standards that must be adhered to as failure to do so may put the safety of the public at risk when using a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

The principal consideration for all is, as always, one of public safety.

Members are asked to support Officers and encourage private hire and hackney carriage drivers and operators to comply with the conditions of their licence and continue to keep their vehicles as safe as possible for both drivers and customers at all times.

5. Background Papers

Enforcement Officer Reports which contain exempt information are not available for public inspection.

6. Officer Contact

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