

**Report of the Service Director Law and
Governance to the General Licensing
Regulatory Board to be held on
21 December 2022**

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 to ensure that any issues and concerns within the trades are raised and addressed accordingly.

To maintain these communications a regular Trade Liaison Meeting is held and chaired by Councillor S Green, with representatives from the Private Hire Association, the Hackney Carriage Associations and other representatives from the trade. Officers from other departments are also invited to attend when an agenda item requires expertise from another service.

In addition, on the 11th November 2022 Licensing Officers carried out a taxi and private hire licensing enforcement operation in the town centre. A summary of the enforcement operation is detailed below.

3. Current Position

On the 11 November 2022 Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Officers from South Yorkshire Police 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 22 licensed vehicles and drivers were inspected on the night, the results of which are detailed as follows:

- 18 vehicles were found to be fully compliant
- 3 Vehicles were found to have defective lights being two number plate lights and a main beam - all of which were rectified on the night
- 1 vehicle was suspended for failing to display the required door signage – this vehicle suspension was lifted the same night when the driver returned displaying the required signage
- 6 drivers were issued with written warnings for failing to complete their daily vehicle checks
- 6 drivers were also spoken to about the signage on the vehicles and reminded of the required standard – being:-

The vehicle when working must display on its front doors the words “Private Hire Vehicle Advanced Booking Only” and must display on the rear offside and near side doors of the vehicle the operator’s trade or business name and telephone number.

No other signs or words whatsoever shall be displayed.

The “Private Hire Vehicle Advanced Booking Only” signage must be in a contrasting colour to the vehicle, be at least 19” x 6” in area and be in a prominent position in the centre of the door panel.

Vehicle non-compliance is an issue Officers are concerned with during the undertaking of each and every enforcement operation. Defective vehicles are not acceptable and cannot be excused, coupled with failing to complete basic vehicle inspection sheets, which is a tool that ensures the very safety of a licensed vehicle, is not acceptable.

4. Proposal

Proactive enforcement operations will continue to take place. Vehicle failures are always unacceptable and our operations must convey the message that

operators, vehicle proprietors and drivers must accept responsibility for their failures and make a change. We 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 in Barnsley.

The principal consideration 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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