

**Report of the Assistant Director to the
General Licensing Regulatory Board
to be held on the 17th April 2024**

ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the 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.

Through the regular Trade Liaison Meetings, the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Associations have raised concerns in relation to the volume of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles licensed by other authorities that are working in the town centre.

3. Current Position

On the 2nd March 2024 Licensing Enforcement Officers took part in a pro-active mobile nighttime and test purchase operation focusing their attention across the Barnsley Borough as well as the town centre and the drivers and vehicles that work in the night-time economy.

In total 6 licensed vehicles and drivers were stopped and inspected on the night which were licensed by Barnsley and 2 vehicles and drivers were stopped and inspected that were licenced by Rotherham and Wolverhampton Councils.

The results of the 8 vehicles and drivers stopped and checked are as follows:

- 2 Barnsley licensed vehicles and drivers were fully compliant.
- 1 vehicle was suspended for displaying the licence plate in the rear window of the vehicle.
- 1 vehicle was suspended for an inoperative side light and brake light.
- 1 vehicle was suspended for an inoperative number plate light.
- 3 drivers were issued written warnings for failing to complete their daily check books.
- The details of the 2 vehicles and drivers that were licensed by other local authorities were fed back to their respective Licensing Officers.

As part of the operation on the night, Licensing Officers also undertook a test purchase operation in the town centre.

All drivers approached as part of this operation were complaint.

Vehicle and driver non-compliance is an issue Officers are concerned with during the undertaking of 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 and reactive enforcement operations will continue to take place on a regular basis. Vehicle failures are always unacceptable, and our enforcement 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 vehicles.

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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