

**Report of the Assistant Director to the  
General Licensing Regulatory Board  
to be held on the 9 September 2015**

**ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report, is to provide Members with an overview of the work Licensing Enforcement Officers have undertaken to date.

**2. Background**

Members are minded to note, that since the last enforcement update, Licensing Enforcement Officers have continued to proactively embark on a number of taxi licensing enforcement operations. A summary of enforcement operations undertaken are detailed below.

**3. Current Position**

On 3 July 2015, Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Vehicle Examiners from the Smithies Lane Depot, took part in a day time operation focusing their attention on our Hackney Carriage Ranks and larger Private Hire Operators. During the day a sizable percentage of vehicles were made available for inspection. In total 29 licensed vehicles were inspected, including 7 Hackney Carriages and 22 Private Hires, the results of which are detailed as follows:

**22 vehicles found to be compliant and 5 vehicles were issued with immediate suspension notices for:**

- inoperative head lights
- inoperative side lights
- inoperative brake lights
- Inoperative number plate lights
- Front nearside wheel nut missing

**Other vehicles received advice in relation to:**

- Cleanliness
- Trip Hazard (defective carpet)
- No smoking signs and legislation
- Plates ineffectively adhered to vehicles
- Scrubbing Tyres

**During the same inspection and in addition to the above, 2 drivers also received written warnings:**

- 1 for failing to display his Private Hire/ Hackney Carriage drivers badge
- 1 for failing to complete the required daily check sheet

On 7 August 2015, Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Vehicle Examiners from the Smithies Lane Depot, took part in a day time operation focusing their attention again on our smaller licensed Operators. Again, It is important sufficient time is taken to inspect each and every business to ensure compliancy. During the day only a small proportion of vehicles were available for inspection. In total 12 licensed vehicles were inspected, the results of which are detailed as follows:

**7 vehicles were found to be compliant and 5 vehicles were issued with immediate suspension notices for defects including:**

- Inoperative head lights
- Inoperative side lights
- Inoperative brake lights
- Inoperative number plate lights
- Inoperative screen wash
- Absence of an internal plate

**In addition to the above advice was also given in relation to:**

- Cleanliness
- Tyres being close to the limit (2mm)

During the operation 2 drivers were also issued with written warnings for failing to complete their daily vehicle inspection books and smoking in a licensed vehicle.

Taking the above into account, Members will note that over 40% of vehicles inspected during this operation were found to be non-compliant and as a result, suspended with immediate effect.

On 28 August 2015, Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Vehicle Examiners from the Smithies Lane Depot, will take part in a day time operation again focusing their attention again on our smaller licensed Operators. A verbal update of the results of this operation will be presented at the General Licensing Board as Officers have insufficient time to provide the relevant statistics for circulation prior to the meeting.

Vehicle non-compliance is not just an issue Officers are concerned with during the undertaking of each and every enforcement operation; it is one that continues to be at the forefront of every Vehicle Examiners mind whilst undertaking an MOT test. Defective vehicles are not acceptable and cannot be excused, coupled with failing to complete basic vehicle inspection sheets, an inspection sheet that not only the Trade requested to complete but a tool that ensures the very safety of a licensed vehicle, is not acceptable.

#### **4. Proposal**

Proactive enforcement operations like these will continue to take place on a quarterly basis. Whilst vehicle failure rates remain at an unacceptable level this continues to harbour great concerns amongst those driven to combat such ill failings and convey the message that operators, vehicle proprietors and drivers must begin to accept responsibility for their failures and make a change.

Failure to do so, will only continue to put the safety of the public at risk when using a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle in Barnsley.

After all, the principal consideration here must be one of public safety.

**5. Background Papers**

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

**6. Officer Contact**

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