

**Report of the Service Director Legal Services  
to the General Licensing Regulatory Board  
to be held on the 24 April 2019**

**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 the 28 February 2019 Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Vehicle Examiners from the Smithies Lane Depot, took part in a day time operation focusing their attention at Springwell School and the drivers and vehicles that are contracted to transport children to the school on a daily basis.

The Chair of the Licensing Regulatory Board, Councillor C Wraith MBE, was also in attendance.

In total 29 licensed vehicles were inspected on the day, the results of which are detailed as follows:

- 26 vehicles found to be compliant
- 3 vehicles were issued with immediate suspension notices for defects including:
  - 1 Vehicle suspended - rear number plate lights inoperative, highlight inoperative and off side head light inoperative.

- 1 Vehicle suspended - near side rear brake light inoperative
- 1 Vehicle suspended – front tyre flat

On the 11 April 2019 Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Vehicle Examiners from the Smithies Lane Depot, took part in a day time operation focusing their attention on the town centre Hackney Carriage Ranks and various Private Hire Operators throughout the Borough.

20 vehicles were inspected in total on the day the results of which are detailed as follows:

- 14 vehicles were found to be compliant
- 6 vehicles were issued with immediate suspension notices for defects including:
  - 3 Vehicles suspended –tyres below the legal limit
  - 1 Vehicle suspended – off side headlight inoperative
  - 1 Vehicle suspended – rear number plate light inoperative, reversing light broken and both front side lights inoperative
  - 1 Vehicle suspended – number plate light inoperative, windscreen washers inoperative and near side front side light inoperative.
- 4 Written Warnings issued to drivers for:-
  - 1 - Falsifying Daily Check
  - 1 - Not carrying a daily check book
  - 2 - Failing to complete daily check book

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 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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