

Regulation and Review Committee

15 July 2016

Present: Councillor John Hunter (In the Chair)
P Earley, D McMeekan and T Mulvenna.

RQ01/7/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Osborne.

RQ02/7/16 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

RQ03/7/16 Exclusion Resolution

Resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test in accordance with Part 2 of Schedule 12A the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

RQ04/07/16 Combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence Referral – Mr A

The committee considered a report by the Senior Client Manager, Technical Services which outlined the background to a referral in respect of the holder of a combined hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence. As a number of complaints had been received by the licensing team relating to Mr A's conduct, behaviour or attitude towards passengers and it had been decided to refer the case to the Regulation and Review Committee for it to determine whether any further disciplinary action was required.

Mr A was present at the meeting, accompanied by his wife and represented by a solicitor, Mr SA.

A licensing officer presented the report to the committee which included information on when Mr A had been issued with a combined hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence and when it would expire; Mr A's licensing record and the complaints made against him.

Mr SA asked questions of the Licensing Officer.

Members asked questions of the licensing Officer.

Mr SA then addressed the committee on his client's behalf and Mr A answered questions from Members.

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Following a summing up from Mr SA, all parties left the meeting to enable consideration of the matter to be undertaken in private.

Options available to the committee were to: take no action; issue a warning as to the driver's future conduct; suspend the driver's licence; or revoke the driver's licence. In determining its response the committee had regard to Section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, in particular Chapter 7 which makes reference to convictions, cautions, conduct and medical fitness.

Resolved that Mr A's license should be suspended for a period of three weeks to demonstrate to Mr A the seriousness of receiving the number of complaints he had and prompt Mr A to amend his behaviour accordingly.