

Agenda item	5.1
Report no	HLC/120/24

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 10 October 2024

Report title: Application for the grant of a private hire operator's licence – Jatinder Singh (Ward 21 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan)

Report by: The Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report relates to an application for the grant of a private hire operator's licence.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to determine the application in accordance with the Council's hearings procedure.

3. Background

3.1 The Highland Council has resolved that in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (the "Act") a licence will be required for the operation of a private hire vehicle. A licence for the same is issued by The Highland Council and is valid for the whole Council area.

4. Application

4.1 Jatinder Singh applied for the grant of a private hire operator's licence on 1 February 2024.

4.2 The application was circulated to both Police Scotland and the Council's Trading Standards Service.

4.3 There have been no objections received in relation to the application.

4.4 In terms of the abovementioned Act the Licensing Authority have nine months from receipt of the application to determine the same, therefore this application must be determined by 1 November 2024. Failure to determine the application by this time would result in the application being subject of a 'deemed grant' which means that a licence would require to be issued for a period of 1 year. The application is before this Committee as this is the last meeting before the determination date expires.

5. Vehicle Inspection & Documents

5.1 The applicant has on two separate occasions (15 March and 24 September 2024) failed to present his vehicle for a scheduled vehicle inspection to support his application for the grant of a Private Hire Operator's Licence. The applicant also requires to submit further evidence that the insurance certificate which he submitted in support of his application includes cover for the carriage of passengers for hire or reward; a full copy of his V5 registration document and the MOT certificate in respect of his vehicle expires on 2 October 2024.

5.2 Until the abovementioned have been completed/submitted the Principal Solicitor is unable to issue the licence using delegated powers.

6. Determining issues

6.1 Paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 1 of the Act states that a licensing authority may refuse an application to grant or renew a licence where:

(a) the applicant or anyone else detailed on the application is not a fit and proper person;

(b) the activity would be carried out by a person other than the applicant who, if he had made the application himself, would have been refused;

(c) where the licence applied for relates to an activity consisting of or including the use of premises or a vehicle or vessel, those premises are not or, as the case may be, that vehicle or vessel is not suitable or convenient for the conduct of the activity having regard to

- (i) the location, character or condition of premises or the character or condition of the vehicle or vessel,
- (ii) the nature and extent of the proposed activity,
- (iii) the kind of persons likely to be in the premises, vehicle or vessel,
- (iv) the possibility of undue public nuisance, or
- (v) public order or public safety; or

(d) there is other good reason for refusing the application.

6.2 If required the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services will offer particular advice on the criteria relating to this particular application.

6.3 A copy of this report has been sent to the applicant who has been invited to attend and will be provided with an opportunity to be heard by the Committee. They have also been advised of the procedure which will be followed at the meeting.

7. Policies

7.1 The following policies are relevant to this case:

Standard taxi operator's licence conditions. A copy of these can be accessed at https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/738739/taxi_and_private_hire/category/501/taxi_and_private_hire or a hard copy can be supplied where requested.

8. Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

Date: 24 September 2024

Author: Julie Traynor

Reference LG/9(a)(pr)43

Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982