

Agenda item	13.1
Report no	HLC/10/26

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: **THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Date: **13 January 2026**

Report title: **Application for the grant of a boat hire licence – Charles Cran-Crombie (Ward 21 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan)**

Report by: **Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services**

1. Purpose/Executive summary

1.1 This report relates to an application for the grant of a boat hire 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 carrying out the activity of boat hiring.

4. Application

4.1 On 20 April 2025 an application for the grant of a boat hire licence was received from Charles Cran-Crombie.

4.2 The application relates to the following vessels:

- 1x Humber Destroyer 5.5m

4.3 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 19 January 2026. 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. Process

5.1 Following receipt of the application a copy of the same was circulated to the following Agencies/Services for consultation:

- Police Scotland
- HC Environmental Health Service
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

5.2 There have been no objections or representations received in relation to the application however HC Environmental Health Service have made the following observation:

"The current insurance policy provided by the client is for personal use only."

6.0 Insurance

6.1 Part of the application process requires the applicant to provide the Licensing Authority with a copy of their public liability insurance certificate.

6.2 Licensing staff have tried on a number of occasions to contact Mr Cran-Crombie by email to request his updated certificate but he has not responded to date.

6.3 In the absence of this certificate the Principal Solicitor is unable to issue the licence under delegated powers.

7. Determining issues

7.1 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.

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

7.2 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.

8. Policies

8.1 The following policies are relevant to this case:

Standard boat hire licence conditions. A copy of these can be accessed at [Apply for a licence - Boat hire | The Highland Council](#) or a hard copy can be supplied where requested.

9. Implications

9.1 Not applicable.

Date: 16 December 2025

Author: J Traynor/M MacPherson

Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982