

Agenda item	14.1
Report no	HLC/44/26

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 31 March 2026

Report title: Application for the grant of a skin piercing and tattooing licence – Fine Line Beauty by Sam, 42 Culcabock Road, Inverness (Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn)

Report by: Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services

1. Purpose/Executive summary

1.1 This report relates to an application for the grant of a skin piercing and tattooing licence.

This item is subject to a formal hearing procedure.

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 carrying out skin piercing and tattooing within the Highland Council area.

4. Application

4.1 On 29 April 2025 an application for the grant of a skin piercing and tattooing licence was received from Samantha Garrow in respect of Fine Line Beauty by Sam, 42 Culcabock Road, Inverness.

4.2 The applicant has advised that they will be carrying out microblading, which is a semi-permanent, manual tattoo technique for eyebrows that uses a fine blade to deposit pigment into the epidermis.

4.3 In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (the Act) the Licensing Authority have twelve months from receipt of the application to determine the same, therefore this application must be determined by 28 April 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
- Fire Service
- Environmental Health Service
- Building Standards Service
- Planning Service

5.2 None of the Services above have any objections other than Environmental Health who require a copy of the applicants first aid certificate before they can sign off.

5.3 Whilst these documents have been requested from the applicant they have not yet been received and therefore the Principal Solicitor is currently unable to issue the licence under delegated powers.

6. Determining issues

6.1 Paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 1 of the Act states that a licensing authority shall 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 shall 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.

6.2 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.

7. Policies

7.1 The following policies are relevant to this case:

Standard skin piercing & tattooing licence conditions. A copy of these can accessed at [Skin piercing and tattooing - Apply for a licence - Highland Council](#)

or a hard copy can be supplied where requested.

8. Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

Date: 11 March 2026

Author: Michael Elsey

Reference: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982