

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 12 May 2026

Agenda Item	11.1
Report No	HLB/25/26

Hearing to consider Police Scotland report of conduct inconsistent with licensing objectives

Personal licence holder – Amanda Ann Simpson (HC/CSR/9032)

Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board

Summary

This report relates to a hearing under section 84A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. This is a mandatory hearing which the Board must hold following receipt from Police Scotland of a report advising that the Chief Constable considers that a personal licence holder has acted in a manner inconsistent with any of the licensing objectives.

1. Background

- 1.1 A personal licence is required to allow any individual to supervise or authorise the sale of alcohol.
- 1.2 Amanda Simpson was granted a personal licence on 24 May 2024, subject to the terms of the Act, the licence will expire on 23 May 2034.
- 1.3 In terms of section 84A of the Act, Police Scotland have submitted to the Board a report dated 18 February 2026 that the Chief Constable considers that personal licence holder, Amanda Simpson, has acted in a manner inconsistent with the licensing objectives, namely preventing crime and disorder and securing public safety.

In addition, the Chief Constable considers that by acting in this manner, the personal licence holder has demonstrated that she is no longer a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence. A copy of this report detailing the conduct in question is attached (**Appendix 1**).

Section 84A(2) of the Act provides that where the Board receives from Police Scotland a report of this nature, the Board must hold a hearing.

- 1.4 The personal licence holder, Amanda Simpson, and a representative from Police Scotland have been invited to attend the hearing. Both have been advised of the hearing procedure which will be followed at the meeting and which may also be viewed via the following link:

http://highland.gov.uk/hlb_hearings

2. Legal position

- 2.1 At the hearing, the Board may, after giving the licence holder, Police Scotland and such other persons as they consider appropriate an opportunity to be heard, make an order revoking, suspending or endorsing the licence if the Board is satisfied that it is necessary to do so for the purposes of any of the licensing objectives. The period of any suspension may not exceed 6 months. Alternatively, the Board may decide to take no action.
- 2.2 Separately, where, at the hearing, the Board are satisfied that, having regard to the licensing objectives, the licence holder is not a fit and proper person to be the holder of a personal licence, the Board must make an order revoking the licence.
- 2.3 For the purposes of the Act, the licensing objectives are-
- (a) preventing crime and disorder,
 - (b) securing public safety,
 - (c) preventing public nuisance,
 - (d) protecting and improving public health, and
 - (e) protecting children and young persons from harm.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to hear from the representative of Police Scotland and from the personal licence holder and then to determine whether to make any order revoking, suspending or endorsing the personal licence.

Reference: HC/CSR/9032
Date: 19 February 2026
Author: A Merchant

Appendix 1 - Letter from Police Scotland dated 18 February 2026

18/02/2026

Your Ref: HC/CSR/9032

Our Ref: 229049

Highland Council
Licensing Office
Council Headquarters
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX



Divisional Co-ordination Unit
Highland and Islands Division
Police HQ
Old Perth Road
INVERNESS
IV2 3SY

Dear Madam,

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 - SECTION 84A. REPORT OF CONDUCT INCONSISTENT WITH LICENSING OBJECTIVES. PERSONAL LICENCE HOLDER: AMANDA ANN SIMPSON [REDACTED]

The Chief Constable hereby reports to the Licensing Board in terms of Section 84A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 that Amanda Ann Simpson has acted in a manner which is inconsistent with the licensing objectives articulated at Section 4(1) of Act, namely:

- Preventing Crime and Disorder
- Securing Public Safety

History of Personal Licence Holder:

Ms Simpson was granted a Personal Licence on the 24th of May 2024. It will expire the 23rd of May 2034.

The following information is provided for the Board's consideration.

Ms Simpson has been convicted of the following relevant offence.

OFFICIAL

Date	Court	Crime/Offence	Disposal
16/01/2026 PSSNARDRN0125	Inverness Sheriff Court	Section 5A (1) (B) Road Traffic Act 1988.	Fine £400 Disqualified from driving 2 months. Licence endorsed. Victim surcharge £20.

On Saturday the 11th of January 2025 at around 11pm, Police were on uniformed mobile in the area of Inverness when they were instructed to attend the B9006 at Culloden Moor due to an emergency telematics call.

Police attended the area and found a vehicle positioned deep in bushes off the road. Ms Simpson was found in the drivers' seat with the engine on and vehicle lights illuminated. Due to the position of the vehicle Police could not render aid to Ms Simpson immediately however were able to converse and ascertained she was uninjured.

Police noted that Ms Simpson had slow slurred speech. Scottish Fire and Rescue attended and extracted Ms Simpson from the vehicle. It was noted Ms Simpson was extremely unsteady on her feet and unable to walk unaided.

Members of the Scottish Ambulance Service carried out a medical assessment on Ms Simpson where they had no concerns regarding her health or injuries. Ms Simpson refused to go to Raigmore Hospital for further checks.

Due to observations and having been involved in a road traffic collision, Police required Ms Simpson to provide a specimen of breath. Ms Simpson complied and blew 0. Ms Simpson was then required to submit to a drugs wipe test to which she complied and subsequently failed. The sample showed positive for Cocaine.

Ms Simpson was arrested and conveyed to Burnett Road Police Station where she was assessed by a doctor who believed she may be under the influence of an unknown drug. A specimen of blood was taken for analysis from Ms Simpson as per road traffic procedures.

Ms Simpson was later released to attend court at a future date.

On the 1st of April 2025 Police received test results from the blood analysis which provided it to contain not less than 475 microgrammes of Benzoylcgonine (BZE, Cocaine breakdown product) per litre of blood with the legal limit being 50 microgrammes per litre of blood.

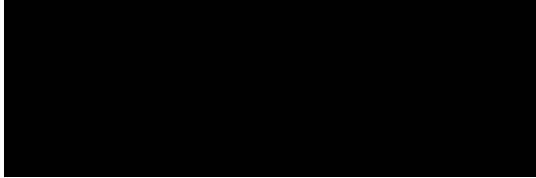
On the 16th of January 2026 Ms Simpson was convicted of the libelled offence and duly sentenced.

OFFICIAL

It is the Chief Constable's view is that the Board should consider all the options open to them under Section 84(7) or 84(7A) of the Act.

In signing this report, I confirm that this report is made under the authority of the Chief Constable of Police Service of Scotland:

Signed:



Chief Superintendent Rob Shepherd
Divisional Commander

Date: 18/02/2026