

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 23 June 2026

Agenda Item	11.2
Report No	HLB/69/26

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

Personal licence holder – Veda Dhanush Motupalli (HC/INBS/9498)

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 Veda Motupalli was granted a personal licence on 09 April 2025 and, subject to the terms of the Act, the licence will expire on 08 April 2035.
- 1.3 In terms of section 84A of the Act, Police Scotland have submitted to the Board a report dated 25 May 2026 that the Chief Constable considers that personal licence holder, Veda Motupalli, has acted in a manner inconsistent with the following licensing objectives:
 - securing public safety; and
 - preventing crime and disorder.

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, Veda Motupalli, 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:

https://www.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/INBS/9498

Date: 27 May 2026

Author: Kata Somogyi

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Letter from Police Scotland dated 25 May 2026

25/05/2026

Your Ref: HC/INBS/9498

Our Ref: 246762

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: VEDA DHANUSH MOTUPALLI, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
LICENCE NO: HC/INBS/9498**

The Chief Constable hereby reports to the Licensing Board in terms of Section 84A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 that Veda Dhanush Motupalli 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:

Mr Motupalli was granted a Personal Licence from the Highland Licensing Board on the 9th of April 2025, expiring on the 8th of April 2035.

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

Mr Motupalli has recently been convicted of the following relevant offence, he has not declared this, as required under Section 82(2) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

OFFICIAL

Date	Court	Crime/Offence	Disposal
22/04/2026	Inverness: Sheriff Court PSSNAR7Z20825	Section 5A (1) (A) & (2) Road Traffic Act 1988 Drug driving: Cannabis	Fine £800 Disqualified from driving for 40 months. Licence endorsed.

PSSNAR7Z20825

On Friday the 23rd of August 2025, around 10pm, police observed a motor vehicle on Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. They observed the licence holder to be driving and had knowledge that he may be disqualified from driving. Police stopped the vehicle and were met with the licence holder. A check showed he was disqualified from driving until the 21st of April 2026.

A smell of cannabis was noted from the licence holder, and he was required to submit to a roadside drug wipe saliva test which gave a positive result for cannabis.

The licence holder was arrested and conveyed to Inverness Burnett Road Police Station and submitted to a blood test. He was later released pending analysis of the blood for any substances.

The blood sample was subject to a forensic examination and the reading provided to be not less than 15 microgrammes of Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol per litre of blood, the legal limit being 2 microgrammes per litre of blood.

A report was submitted for consideration of prosecution to the Procurator Fiscal.

The licence holder was convicted of drug driving on the 22nd of April 2026.

It has been discovered that Mr Motupalli has also been convicted of another relevant offence on the 22nd of April 2025 which he has not declared to the Highland Licensing Board, as required by a Personal Licence holder under Section 82(2) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

Date	Court	Crime/Offence	Disposal
22/04/2025	Inverness: Sheriff Court PSSNARW2Q0524	Section 5 (1) (A) Road Traffic Act 1988 Drink driving	Disqualified from driving 12 months. Licence endorsed. Fine £600. Victim surcharge £40.

OFFICIAL

PSSNARW2Q0524

On Monday the 13th of May 2024, police were on uniformed mobile patrol in the Inverness area, around 11pm. At this time police were on Walter Scott Drive, Inverness and observed a motor vehicle drifting towards the nearside kerb shy line and then back to the centre line.

The vehicle was stopped, and the licence holder was found to be the driver. Police noted a smell of alcohol coming from the licence holder who appeared intoxicated.

The licence holder was subject to roadside breath test procedures and subsequently failed. He was duly arrested and conveyed to Burnett Road Police Station, Inverness.

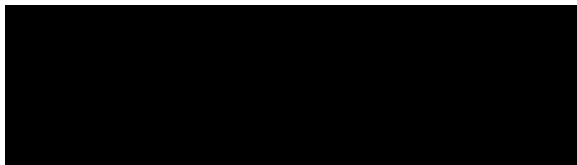
Evidential breath testing was undertaken at the Police Station with the licence holder providing a lower reading of 49 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath which exceeded the prescribed limit of 22 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath.

The licence holder was later released, and a report was submitted for consideration of prosecution to the Procurator Fiscal. On the 22nd of April 2025 the licence holder was convicted.

It is the Chief Constable's view 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:

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Chief Superintendent.

Chief Superintendent David Ross
Divisional Commander

Date: 25/05/2026