

Highland Council

Minutes of the **Highland Licensing Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday, 12 May 2026 at Noon.

The webcast of the meeting will be available within 48 hours of broadcast and will remain online for 12 months: <https://highland.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Present: Dr C Birt, Mr J Bruce, Mr J Grafton, Ms L Johnston, Mr S Kennedy (Chair), Ms K Maclean (remote), Mr D Macpherson. Mr K Rosie (remote).

In Attendance:

Mr G Somers Solicitor, Regulatory Services
Mr I Meredith, Solicitor, Regulatory Services
Ms A Macrae, Senior Committee Officer

Also Attending:

Sergeant S Paterson, Police Scotland

Item 7.1: David Toth (licence holder)

Item 8.1: MHD Sarsar (licence holder)

Item 11.3: Sheila Fraser (licence holder)

Item 14.1: Philip Rushton, Susanne Rushton (applicants), Paul Bain, Jan Bain, Emily Roberts, Ian Mulvey (objectors)

Item 14.2: Leslie Macpherson, Margaret Macpherson (applicants), Catherine Kidd-Stephenson (applicant's agent)

Item 14.3: Alicia Laurie (applicant), Michael Traynor (applicant's representative)

Item 14.4: Hugh Long (applicant), Ross Tweedie (applicant's representative), Brian Skelton (objector)

Item 14.5: Mark Gardner, Sandra Gardner (applicants)

The Chair confirmed that the meeting would be webcast and gave a short briefing on the Council's webcasting procedure and protocol.

Business

1. Apologies for absence Leisgeulan

There were apologies for absence from Mrs J Hendry, Ms E Knox, Mr W Mackay, Mr R Stewart.

2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/Aithris Fhollaiseachd

There were no declarations of interest/transparency statements.

3. Confirmation of minutes
Dearbhadh a' Gheàrr-chunntais

There had been submitted for confirmation as a correct record the minutes of meeting of the Committee held on 31 March 2026, the terms of which were **APPROVED**.

4. Licences granted under delegated powers
Ceadachdan a bhuilicheadh fo ùghdarras air a thiomnadh

There had been circulated Report No HLC/47/25 by the Principal Solicitor which detailed all Licences granted under delegated powers under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in the period from 19 March 2026 to 29 April 2026.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

4.1 Short Term Let Licences granted under delegated powers
Ceadachd Aontaidhean Màil Geàrr-ùine Ceadachdan a bhuilicheadh fo ùghdarras air a thiomnadh

There had been circulated Report No HLC/48/26 by the Principal Solicitor which detailed all Short Term Let Licences granted under delegated powers under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in the period from 19 March 2026 to 29 April 2026.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

5. Pending applications – 3 monthly considerations
Iarrtasan ri thighinn – beachdachaidhean 3 mìosach

There had been circulated Report No HLC/49/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to applications which are currently pending for the grant or renewal of licences under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The Committee **AGREED** to defer the determination of the applications, either:

(a) to allow them to be approved under delegated powers in the event that no objections/representations are received and all outstanding documentation has been received from the applicants; or

(b) to a future meeting of the Committee when the applications will be determined in terms of the Hearings Procedure.

**5.1 Short Term Let Pending applications – 3 monthly considerations
Ceadachd Aontaidhean Màil Geàrr-ùine Iarrtasan ri thighinn –
beachdachaidhean 3 mìosach**

There had been circulated Report No HLC/50/26 by the Principal Solicitor outlining the Short Term Let applications which are currently pending for the grant or renewal of licences under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The Committee **AGREED** to defer the determination of the applications, either:

(a) to allow them to be approved under delegated powers in the event that no objections/representations are received and all outstanding documentation has been received from the applicants; or

(b) to a future meeting of the Committee when the applications will be determined in terms of the Hearings Procedure.

6. The Committee RESOLVED that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**7. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Taxi driver's / operator's licences
Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982 Ceadachdan Dhràibhearan /
Oibrichean Tagsaidh**

7.1 Taxi operator and taxi driver licence – David Toth

There was circulated to members only Report No HLC/51/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to David Toth who is the holder of a taxi driver's licence and a taxi operator's licence (Ward 9 – Black Isle). The Committee was invited to determine this matter in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Police Scotland and David Toth, applicant.

The Committee **AGREED** to:

- 1) SUSPEND** the licence holder's taxi driver's licence for the unexpired portion of the duration of the licence, with immediate effect, under paragraph 11(2)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 on the grounds that he is no longer a fit and proper person to hold the licence; and
- 2) SUSPEND** the licence holder's taxi operator's licence for the unexpired portion of the duration of the licence, with immediate effect, under paragraph 11(2)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 on the grounds that he is no longer a fit and proper person to hold the licence.

8. **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Taxi driver's / operator's licences, Street Traders licence**
Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982 Ceadachdan Dhràibhearan / Oibrichean Tagsaidh, Iarrtas airson ceadachd neach-malairt sràide

8.1 Licence holder – MHD Sarsar

There was circulated to members only Report No HLC/52/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to MHD Sarsar who is the holder of a taxi driver's licence, taxi operator's licence and street trader's licence (Ward 13 – Inverness West). The Committee was invited to determine this matter in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Police Scotland and MHD Sarsar, licence holder.

The Committee **AGREED** to **RECALL** the suspension of each of the taxi driver's licence, taxi operator's licence and street trader's licence.

9. **The Committee returned to public proceedings for the following items.**
10. **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Taxi driver's / operator's licences**
Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982 Ceadachdan Dhràibhearan / Oibrichean Tagsaidh

10.1 Application for a taxi driver's licence – Sumit Singh

There was circulated Report No HLC/53/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Sumit Singh for a taxi driver's licence (Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee **NOTED** the application had been withdrawn, at the applicant's request.

11. **Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Street Traders licence**
Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982 Iarrtas airson ceadachd neach-malairt sràide

11.1 Application for the grant of a street trader's licence – Rebecca MacDonald

There was circulated Report No HLC/54/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Rebecca MacDonald for the grant of a street trader's licence (Ward 9 – Black Isle). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee **AGREED** to **GRANT DELEGATED POWERS** to the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services to **REFUSE** the application should the vehicle not be inspected and be issued with a pass certificate by the Council's Environmental Health Service by 21 May 2026.

11.2 Application for the grant of a street trader's licence – Tim Mullan

There was circulated Report No HLC/55/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which has been received from Tim Mullan for the grant of a street trader's licence (Ward 10 - Eilean a' Cheò). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee **NOTED** that the vehicle had been inspected by Environmental Health and they had issued their Certificate of Compliance, therefore as there was no other objections/representations or documentation outstanding in relation to this application, this licence had now been **GRANTED** under **DELEGATED POWERS**.

11.3 Application for the renewal of a street trader's licence – Sheila Fraser

There was circulated Report No HLC/56/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Sheila Fraser for the renewal of a street trader's licence (Ward 12 – Aird & Loch Ness). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Sheila Fraser, licence holder.

The Committee **AGREED** that if a certificate of compliance has not been issued by the Council's Environmental Health Service by 24 May 2026, to **GRANT DELEGATED POWERS** to the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services to **GRANT** the renewal of the street trader's licence on 25 May 2026 subject to the standard licence conditions and the following additional condition:

“THAT the licence holder cannot operate as a street trader until a certificate of compliance has been issued by the Council's Environmental Health Service.”

12. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Skin Piercing and Tattooing licence Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982 Ceadachdan Dhràibhearan / Oibrichean Tagsaidh

12.1 Application for the grant of a skin piercing and tattooing licence – 118-122 Academy Street, Inverness.

There was circulated Report No HLC/57/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Catriona Elliot for the grant of a skin piercing and tattooing licence in respect of premises at 118-122

Academy Street, Inverness (Ward 14 – Inverness Central). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee **NOTED** that the application had been withdrawn, at the applicant's request.

**13. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Public Entertainment Licences
Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982 Ceadachdan Aoigheachd
Phoblaich**

**13.1 Application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence –
Culcabock & Drakies Community Hall, Grebe Avenue, Inverness**

There was circulated Report No HLC/58/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence for Culcabock & Drakies Community Hall, Grebe Avenue, Inverness (Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee **NOTED** that the application had been withdrawn, at the applicant's request.

**13.2 Application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence –
Village Square Area, The Muir Hub, Great North Road, Muir of Ord**

There was circulated Report No HLC/59/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application for the renewal of a public entertainment licence for Village Square Area, The Muir Hub, Great North Road, Muir of Ord (Ward 8 – Dingwall and Seaforth). The Committee was invited to determine this matter in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee **AGREED**:

(1) to **GRANT DELEGATED POWERS** to the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services to **REFUSE** the application should the certificate of compliance in respect of the public notice not be returned to the Council by the licence holder by 18 May 2026; and

(2) that in the event that the certificate of compliance in respect of the public notice is returned to the Council by the licence holder by 18 May 2026, to **GRANT DELEGATED POWERS** to the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services to **GRANT** the renewal of the public entertainment licence on 19 May 2026 subject to the standard licence conditions and the following additional condition:

“THAT activities which require a public entertainment licence cannot take place at the premises until

(a) the following documentation has been provided:

- Fire Safety Checklist
- Plans – location/layout
- EICR
- PAT certificate
- PEL07 Temporary Electrical Installation sign-off certificate
- Health & Safety Statement
- Risk Assessment
- Welfare document
- Public Liability Insurance certificate
- Premises Owner’s permission
- PEL05 Tent/Gazebo sign-off certificate

and

(b) such documentation is signed off as being acceptable by the following appropriate agencies/services:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Highland Council Environmental Health Service
- Highland Council Building Standards Service
- Highland Council Planning Service
- The Highland Child Protection Committee, and
- NHS Scotland.”

14. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Short Term Let licensing Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982 Ceadachd Aontaidhean Màil Geàrr-ùine

14.1 Application for grant of a short term let licence – Martinet Bothy, Gorthleck, IV2 6UJ

There was circulated Report No HLC/60/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Mr Philip Joseph Rushton for the grant of a short term let licence (Ward 12 – Aird and Loch Ness). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council’s Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Philip Rushton and Susanne Rushton, applicants, and Paul Bain, Jan Bain, Emily Roberts and Ian Mulvey, objectors.

The Committee **AGREED** to **GRANT** the licence subject to the mandatory and additional conditions.

14.2 Application for grant of a short term let licence – Skippers View, 15 Johnstone Crescent, Brora, KW9 6PH

There was circulated Report No HLC/61/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Miss Catherine Kidd-Stephenson of North Coast Holiday Homes for the grant of a short term let licence (Ward 4 – East Sutherland and Edderton). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Leslie Macpherson and Margaret Macpherson, applicants, and Catherine Kidd-Stephenson, applicant's agent

The Committee **AGREED** to **GRANT** the licence subject to the mandatory and additional conditions.

14.3 Application for grant of a short term let licence – 4 Mamore Road, Kinlochleven, PH50 4QP

There was circulated Report No HLC/62/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Miss Alicia Laurie for the grant of a short term let licence (Ward 21 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Alicia Laurie, applicant, and Michael Traynor, applicant's representative.

The Committee **AGREED** to **GRANT** the licence subject to the mandatory and additional conditions.

14.4 Application for grant of a short term let licence – 1 Windsor Court, Albert Street, Nairn, IV12 4HS

There was circulated Report No HLC/63/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Mr Hugh Long for the grant of a short term let licence (Ward 18 – Nairn and Cawdor). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Hugh Long, applicant, Ross Tweedie of Regalet Management Ltd, applicant's representative, and Brian Skelton, objector.

The Committee **AGREED** to **GRANT** the licence subject to the mandatory and additional conditions.

**14.5 Application for grant of the renewal of a short term let licence –
Moray Firth View, 23 Royal Marine Apartments, Marine Road, Nairn, IV12
4EN**

There was circulated Report No HLC/64/26 by the Principal Solicitor relating to an application which had been received from Mr Mark Gardner for the renewal of a short term let licence (Ward 18 – Nairn and Cawdor). The Committee was invited to determine this application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Mark Gardner and Sandra Gardner, applicants.

The Committee **AGREED** to **GRANT** the licence subject to the mandatory and additional conditions.

The meeting ended at 4.10pm.