

Highland Council

Minutes of the **Highland Licensing Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Tuesday, 15 September 2026 at 11.00 am.

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: Mrs J Hendry, Ms L Johnston, Ms E Knox, Ms K Maclean.

In Attendance:

Ms C McArthur, Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory)
Mr G Somers, Solicitor
Mr M Elsey, Senior Licensing Officer
Ms A Macrae, Senior Committee Officer

Also Attending:

Sergeant S Paterson, Police Scotland

Item 6.1: Mr Curran (applicant), Ms Scanlon (objector), Ms Henstridge (objector)
Item 6.2: Mr Buchanan (applicant), Ms McBean (applicant's representative),
Mr Hutchinson (objector)
Item 7.1: Mr Abbas (applicant)
Item 9.2: William Brown (applicant)
Item 9.4: Christopher Jaffray (applicant)
Item 10.1: Christopher Mackay (applicant), Leslie Mackay (applicant's representative)

Business

Appointment of Chair of Meeting

The Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) invited nominations for the appointment of a temporary Chair.

Mrs J Hendry seconded by Ms E Knox proposed that Ms L Johnston be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

On their being no other nominations, the Committee **AGREED** that Ms L Johnston be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence Leisgeulan

There were apologies for absence from Dr C Birt and Mr K Rosie.

**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 11 August 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/89/26 by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) which detailed all Licences granted under delegated powers under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in the period from 23 July 2026 to 2 September 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/90/26 by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) which detailed all Short Term Let Licences granted under delegated powers under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in the period from 23 July 2026 to 2 September 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/91/26 by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) 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/92/26 by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) 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. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Short Term Let licensing
Achd Riaghaltais Chatharra (Alba) 1982
Ceadachd Aontaidhean Màil Geàrr-ùine**

**6.1 Application for grant of a short term let licence – 10 St Columba's Way,
Tornagrain, IV2 8AN**

There had been circulated **Report No HLC/93/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application which had been received from Mr Ian William Curran for the grant of a short term let licence (Ward 17 - Culloden and Ardersier). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Ms Scanlon and Ms Henstridge, objectors, and Mr Curran, applicant.

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

**6.2 Application for grant of a short term let licence – 10 Bynack House,
Bynack More, Aviemore, PH22 1UU**

There had been circulated **Report No HLC/94/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application which had been received from Mr Kieran Buchanan for the grant of a short term let licence (Ward 20 – Badenoch and Strathspey). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Mr Hutchinson, objector, Mr Buchanan, applicant, and Ms McBean, applicant's representative.

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

6.3 Application for grant of a short term let licence – Greenwood, Nethy Bridge, PH25 3DB

There had been circulated **Report No HLC/95/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application which had been received from Mr Duncan McVitie for the grant of a short term let licence (Ward 20 – Badenoch and Strathspey). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

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

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

7.1 Application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence – Adnan Abbas

There had been circulated **Report No HLC/96/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application which had been received from Adnan Abbas for the grant of a taxi driver's licence (Ward 16 – Inverness Millburn). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from the Adnan Abbas, applicant.

The Committee **AGREED** to **GRANT DELEGATED POWERS** to the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services to **REFUSE** the application should the applicant not sit and pass both parts of the taxi driver knowledge test by 1 October 2026.

The Committee also **NOTED** that the applicant could withdraw his application should he not be in a position to pass both parts of the taxi knowledge test by 30 September 2026.

7.2 Application for the grant of a taxi operator's licence – Martin Clark

There had been circulated **Report No HLC/97/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application which had been received from Martin Clark for the grant of a taxi operator's licence (Ward 14 – Inverness Central). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

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

8. 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.

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

9.1 Taxi driver licence – Christopher Cairns

There had been circulated **to members only Report No HLC/98/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to Christopher Cairns who is the holder of a taxi driver's licence (Ward 21 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan). The Committee was invited to determine this matter in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee **NOTED** that the licence holder had surrendered the licence.

9.2 Application for the renewal of a taxi driver's licence – William Brown

There had been circulated **to members only Report No HLC/99/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application which had been received from William Brown for the renewal of a taxi driver's licence (Ward 15 – Inverness Ness-side). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Police Scotland and William Brown, applicant.

The Committee **AGREED to REFUSE** the renewal application on the basis that the applicant is not deemed a fit and proper person to be the holder of a taxi driver's licence.

9.3 Application for the renewal of a taxi operator's licence – Callum Train

There had been circulated **to members only Report No HLC/100/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application which had been received from Callum Train for the renewal of a taxi operator's licence (Ward 18 – Nairn and Cawdor). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Police Scotland. The applicant was not present.

The Committee **AGREED** to hear the non-timeous objection from Police Scotland.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** to **REFUSE** the renewal application on the basis that the applicant is not deemed a fit and proper person to be the holder of a taxi operator's licence.

9.4 Application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence – Christopher Jaffray

There had been circulated **to members only Report No HLC/101/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application which had been received from Christopher Jaffray for the renewal of a taxi driver's licence (Ward 8 – Dingwall and Seaforth). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Police Scotland and Christopher Jaffray, applicant.

The Committee **AGREED** to **REFUSE** the application on the basis that the applicant is not deemed a fit and proper person to be granted a taxi driver licence.

10. Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 Private landlord registration Achd Dol A-mach Mì-shòisealta (Alba) 2004 Clàradh Uachdarain Phrìobhaidich – Brathan Ùnnlagh Màil

10.1 Application for renewal of registration in the register of private landlords – Christopher Mackay

There had been circulated **to members only Report No HLC/102/26** by the Strategic Lead (Legal & Regulatory) relating to an application for the grant of a private landlord registration by Christopher Mackay (Ward 2 – Thurso and Northwest Caithness). The Committee was invited to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Landlord Registration Hearings Procedure.

The Committee heard from Police Scotland and the applicant's representative.

The Committee **AGREED** to **REFUSE** the application for registration on the basis that the applicant is not deemed a fit and proper person to act as a landlord.

The meeting ended at 1.00pm.
