Agenda Item	**6.1**
Report No	**HLC/133/26**

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee:	**THE HIGHLAND LICENSING COMMITTEE**
Date:	**1 December 2026**
Report title:	**Application for the grant of a taxi driver's licence – (Syed Moazzam Hossain) (Ward 21 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan)**
Report by:	**The Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services**

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report relates to an application for the grant of a taxi driver's 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 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 the driving of a taxi. A licence for the same issued by The Highland Council is valid for the whole Council area.

4. Application

4.1 On 2 April 2026 an application for the grant of a taxi driver licence was received from Syed Moazzam Hossain.

4.2 The application was circulated to both Police Scotland and the Council's Trading Standards Service.

4.3 There have been no objections received in relation to the application.

5. Right to work

5.1 A right to work check has been completed and is satisfactory**.**

6. Taxi driver's knowledge test

6.1 Mr Hossain has undertaken the knowledge test three times, during his first attempt Mr Hossain scored 40% in the Highland wide section (pass mark is 75%) and 17% in the local section (pass mark is 85%).

6.2 On his second attempt, Mr Hossain scored 75% in the Highland wide section and passed this part of the test, as the pass mark is 75%. He scored 17% in the local section, where the pass mark is 85%, and therefore did not pass this section.

6.3 On his third and final attempt Mr Hossain scored 62% in the local section and failed this test as the pass mark is 85%.

6.4 The Council's policy in respect of a taxi driver's knowledge test states that an applicant is permitted a maximum of three attempts.

7. Process

7.1 In terms of the abovementioned Act, the Licensing Authority has nine months from receipt of the application to determine the same, therefore this application must be determined by 1 January 2027. 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 to Mr Hossain for a period of 12 months. The application is before this Committee as this is the last meeting before the determination date expires.

8. Determining issues

8.1 Paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 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.

8.2 If required, the Principal Solicitor – Regulatory Services will offer particular advice on the criteria relating to this particular application.

8.3 In addition, section 13(5) of the Act provides that a licensing authority shall require an applicant for a taxi driver's licence to take a test of his knowledge of the area to which the licence is to relate, of the layout of roads in that area and such other matters relating to the operation of a taxi as the authority consider desirable, and the authority shall refuse to grant a licence to a person who does not satisfy them that they have adequate knowledge of any of these matters.

8.4 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. He has also been advised of the procedure which will be followed at the meeting.

9. Policies

9.1 The following policy is relevant to this case:

Standard taxi driver's licence conditions. A copy of these can accessed at

https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/738739/taxi_and_private_hire/category/501/taxi_and_private_hire, or a hard copy can be supplied where requested.

10. Implications

10.1 Not applicable.

Date: 13 November 2026

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Background Papers: Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982