

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

Regulatory Committee

Wednesday 14 July 2010 at 2.00 pm
in the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

1 Order of Business

Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

2 Declaration of Interests

Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

3 Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing – ComCab (Edinburgh) Ltd – Call Signs – report by the Director of Corporate Services (circulated)

4 Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing – Central Radio Taxis (Tollcross) Ltd – ‘Chip and Pin’ Signs – report by the Director of Corporate Services (circulated)

5 Request for Reduction of Fee – Temporary Theatre Licence – Wonderland Productions - report by the Director of Corporate Services (circulated)

6 Request for Reduction of Fee – Temporary Theatre Licences – Edinburgh Festival Fringe – report by the Director of Corporate Services (to follow)

Alastair Maclean
Head of Legal and Administrative Services

Notes:

- 1) Members are reminded that they may appoint substitutes. If members intend to appoint substitutes, they should contact Aileen McGregor, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ; Tel: 0131 529 4325 or e-mail: aileen.mcgregor@edinburgh.gov.uk

- 2) A copy of the agenda and papers for the public part of this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the main reception office, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.
- 3) The agenda, minutes and public reports for all the main Council Committees can be viewed online by going to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol. Members and Officers of the Council can also view them by going to the Orb and clicking on Council papers online.
- 4) If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements please contact Aileen McGregor, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ; Tel: 0131 529 4325 or e-mail: aileen.mcgregor@edinburgh.gov.uk

Membership

Councillor Keir (Convener)
Councillor Lang (Vice-Convener)
Councillor Cairns
Councillor Henderson
Councillor McKay

Councillor Kate MacKenzie
Councillor Mowat
Councillor Perry
Councillor Snowden



Please recycle this paper

Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing – ComCab (Edinburgh) Ltd. – Call Signs

Regulatory Committee

14th July 2010

Purpose of report

- 1 To provide the committee with an update regarding a request from a taxi radio company for the use of call signs to be displayed in their fleet of taxis.

Main report

- 2 On 7th March 2008 the Regulatory Committee considered a request from ComCab (Edinburgh) Ltd. for the use of call sign stickers throughout their fleet of taxis. The committee decided to continue consideration of the request, to obtain further information on:-
 - (i) whether the call sign numbers could reflect plate numbers;
 - (ii) further guidelines on taxi licensing conditions in regard to advertising.
- 3 On 19th June 2009 the committee agreed to the use of call sign stickers, but subject to the recommendation proposed by the Cab Inspector, Lothian and Borders Police, namely that the numbers used should match up with the taxi plate numbers. It was previously agreed between the Cab Office and ComCab that if the stickers were permitted, they should be placed on the front and rear windscreens, in the top near-side corner.
- 4 ComCab have contacted the Council's Licensing Section in connection with this matter to request further consideration of the use of call sign stickers. In the first instance, the stickers were originally intended for external application to vehicles. Recognising the problems with weathering and external wear and tear, the company has arranged for internal application of stickers.
- 5 The Council's Licensing Conditions state:
 - 5.1 condition 31 (relating to Taxi Licences) "The holder of a taxi licence shall not display in or on their taxi any signs either for the purpose of advertising or by way of identifying or personalising marks but the Council will consider varying this prohibition on application from the holder of a taxi licence in accordance with the terms of these conditions."
 - 5.2 condition 236 (relating to conditions of fitness for taxis) that "no material may be placed on any glass including the dividing glass partition, other than notices approved by the Council."

- 6 ComCab have indicated that the Cab Office request for the call sign details to match up with plate numbers would present a difficulty for the company, in that the company's IT systems are not currently able to deal with this requirement. A representative from ComCab will be invited to attend the committee meeting to provide further information, as required.
- 7 It is noted that at present, call signs used by other fleets of taxis in the City of Edinburgh do not correspond with vehicle plate numbers.

Financial Implications

- 8 There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

Environmental Impact

- 9 There are no environmental implications arising from the contents of this report.

Recommendations

- 10 The committee is asked to consider the terms of the requests from ComCab (Edinburgh) Ltd. for the amended use of call sign stickers throughout its fleet of taxis, in line with the suggestions from the Cab Office.


for Jim Inch
Director of Corporate Services

Appendices	1. letter from ComCab dated 24 th March 2010 2. letter from Licensing Section to ComCab dated 9 th April 2010
Contact/tel/Email	Nick Fraser, Senior Solicitor(Licensing) / 0131 529 4424 / nicholas.fraser@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	citywide
Single Outcome Agreement	Supports National Outcome 1 – “We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe” Supports Local Outcome – Edinburgh is an internationally competitive business location that attracts talent and investment to its growing knowledge-based economy” Supports National Outcome 2 – “We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people” Supports Local Outcome – “Edinburgh’s economy is strengthened, through the skills development and economic participation of its population”
Background Papers	1.Licensing Conditions for Taxis, Private Hire Cars, Taxi Drivers and Private Hire Car Drivers 2.Fare Table for Taxis – 1 st January 2009

Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing – Central Radio Taxis (Tollcross) Ltd. – “Chip and Pin” Signs

Regulatory Committee

14th July 2010

Purpose of report

- 1 To advise the committee of a further request from a taxi radio company for “chip and pin” signs to be displayed in their fleet of taxis, specifically on the internal dividing screen between driver and passengers.

Main report

- 2 The Licensing Sub-Committee previously considered a request from Central Radio Taxis (Tollcross) Ltd. in connection with the display of “chip and pin” signs throughout their fleet of taxis. The committee agreed that it would be appropriate to permit the display of the signs. The committee noted however that the Cab Office did not support the use of a “chip and pin” sign on the internal central dividing screen in taxis, between the driver and passenger compartments.
- 3 The Cab Office has again been consulted in connection with the request from Central, but maintains concerns about signs being placed on the central dividing screen within the taxi.
- 4 Central have indicated that whilst passengers have made use of the “chip and pin” service, passengers are not always immediately aware of the availability of the system, particularly since the signs advertising the service are displayed towards the exterior of vehicles.
- 5 The Council’s Licensing Conditions state:
 - 5.1 condition 31 (relating to Taxi Licences) “The holder of a taxi licence shall not display in or on their taxi any signs either for the purpose of advertising or by way of identifying or personalising marks but the Council will consider varying this prohibition on application from the holder of a taxi licence in accordance with the terms of these conditions.”
 - 5.2 condition 236 (relating to conditions of fitness for taxis) that “no material may be placed on any glass including the dividing glass partition, other than notices approved by the Council.”
- 6 A representative from Central Radio Taxis will be invited to attend the committee meeting to provide further information, as required.

Financial Implications

7 There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

Environmental Impact

8 There are no environmental implications arising from the contents of this report.

Recommendations

9 The committee is asked to consider the terms of the request from Central Radio Taxis (Tollcross) Ltd. for the use of "chip and pin" stickers throughout its fleet of taxis, on the internal central dividing screen in taxis, between the driver and passenger compartments.


for Jim Inch
Director of Corporate Services

Appendices	1. Copy of sticker proposed for use by Central Radio Taxis
Contact/tel/Email	Nick Fraser, Senior Solicitor(Licensing) / 0131 529 4424 / nicholas.fraser@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	citywide
Single Outcome Agreement	Supports National Outcome 1 – "We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe" Supports Local Outcome – Edinburgh is an internationally competitive business location that attracts talent and investment to its growing knowledge-based economy" Supports National Outcome 2 – "We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people" Supports Local Outcome – "Edinburgh's economy is strengthened, through the skills development and economic participation of its population"
Background Papers	1.Licensing Conditions for Taxis, Private Hire Cars, Taxi Drivers and Private Hire Car Drivers 2.Report to Licensing Sub-Committee 11 th September 2009

Request for Reduction of Fee – Temporary Theatre Licence – Wonderland Productions

Regulatory Committee

14th July 2010

Purpose of report

- 1 To advise the committee of a request for the reduction of fee for a temporary Theatre licence.

Main report

- 2 Appendix 1 to this report consists of an application for a temporary Theatre licence, lodged by Wonderland Productions, for an event taking place from Wednesday 4th August to Monday 30th August 2010, at Vittoria's Italian Restaurant, Leith Walk, Edinburgh, as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
- 3 Appendices 2 and 3 to this report comprise of letters received on 2nd June 2010 and 18th June 2010 submitted by Wonderland Productions, providing an overview of the event for which the temporary Theatre Licence is sought, and requesting consideration of a waiver or reduction of licensing fee. The applicants have also provided a layout plan, a copy of which is attached at appendix 4 of this report.
- 4 The City of Edinburgh Council approved the current scale of fees for licensing applications, effective from 1st April 2010. The fee for a temporary Theatre Licence for a commercial operation with a capacity of 160 (as referred to in the application) is £849.
- 5 Wonderland Productions were invited to address the committee on the terms of their request for a reduced licence fee and to furnish the committee with further information about the proposed event. They are based in Ireland and unfortunately it has not been possible to co-ordinate arrangements in time for the committee meeting and accordingly they have tendered their apologies in advance of the meeting. Any additional materials provided by Wonderland in support of their request will be presented to the committee on the day of the meeting.

Financial Implications

- 6 The Council's scale of fees for licensing applications was approved with effect from 1st April 2010. If the committee was to decide upon a reduction or waiver of fees, any resultant shortfall in anticipated fees would require to be absorbed by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 licensing budget for 2010/2011.

Environmental Impact

7 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider, in light of the Council's current budgetary situation, whether or not to agree to a reduction or waiver of the application fee for the temporary Theatre Licence, in terms of the applicant's request. In the event that a reduction is agreed, the committee is asked to confirm the amount of the reduction.


Jim Inch
Director of Corporate Services

Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Application lodged by Wonderland Productions dated 16th June 20102. letter from applicants received 2nd June 20103. letter from applicants received 18th June 20104. copy layout plan
Contact/tel/Email	Nick Fraser, Senior Solicitor (Licensing) / 0131 529-4424 / nicholas.fraser@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	citywide
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>Supports National Outcome 1 – “We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe”</p> <p>Supports Local Outcome – “Edinburgh Festivals have a global competitive edge”</p> <p>Supports National Outcome 11 – “We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others”</p> <p>Supports Local Outcome – “Edinburgh has strong, engaged and supported voluntary and community sectors that enable people to participate in their communities”</p> <p>Supports National Outcome 13 – “We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity”</p> <p>Supports Local Outcome – “All residents including those from minority backgrounds are able to actively participate in the community”</p>
Background Papers	None