

Regulatory Committee

9.30am, Thursday 26 June 2018

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Catherine Fullerton</p> 	<p>Councillor Scott Arthur Councillor Gavin Barrie Councillor Steve Burgess Councillor Denis Dixon Councillor Cameron Rose Councillor Neil Ross Councillor Stephanie Smith Councillor Donald Wilson</p>	<p>Stephen Broughton Committee Services 0131 529 4261</p>

Taxi Fare Review

Following the decision of the Regulatory Committee on [14 May 2018](#), the Taxi Trade were notified by letter of the introduction of a new tariff on 18 May 2018, with an advert subsequently published in the Edinburgh Evening News on 5 June 2018.

There have been no notifications of appeal received and therefore the new tariff came into effect on 18 June 2018.

The Taxi Examination Centre has contacted the Council-approved taxi meter providers and have made the necessary arrangements to update vehicles on to the new Tariff Table. Copies of the Tariff Table will be available at the Customer Hub (City Chambers), the Taxi Examination Centre and from taxi meter providers.

European Emission Standards - First of the new rules now effective

Following the introduction of the Age and Emission Standards policy, the first of the new rules has now come into effect. The rules were introduced to reduce polluting vehicles in licensed fleet.

As 7 May 2018 operators will no longer be able to licence any Euro 0-4 vehicle not already licence by the Council, this prevents vehicles be introduced to the city which are often second hand and unable to be licensed in other cities.

Any Euro 0-4 vehicle will have to be replaced or withdrawn from service by 31 March 2020.

All operators have been contacted to ensure awareness of these policy changes and officers continue to engage with the trade on issues arising from the new rules.

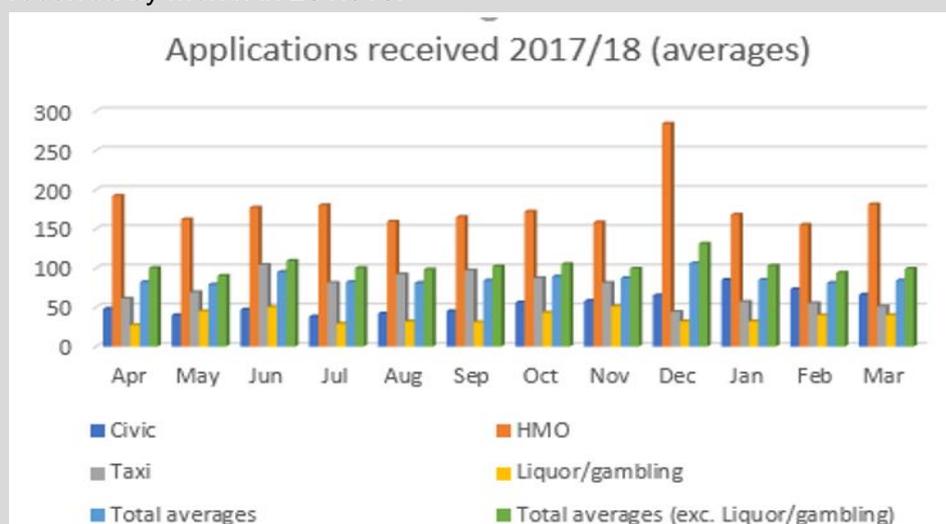
The Council, as Licensing Authority under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for taxis, is required to review and fix the scale of fares and other charges which may be used by taxis licensed within the city. This review must take place at intervals not greater than 18 months. The Council last fixed taxi fares on 13 November 2016, following an appeal to the Traffic Commissioner. The Council has 18 months from that date to fix fares again. The taxi fare tariff sets out the maximum charges which licensed taxis may charge any passenger for a journey within the City.

The licensing of taxis and private hire cars (PHCs) is an optional activity in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 ('the Act').

The Regulatory Committee approved a motion by Councillor Steve Burgess and a feasibility report was presented to the Committee on [21 November 2016](#). The Committee agreed in principle that the conditions of licences will be altered to improve the air quality in the city by reducing the emissions from taxis and PHCs and to consult on options to achieve this by either introducing an age limitation in respect of taxis and PHCs or increasing incrementally the minimum emissions standards for the engines in these vehicles, which would improve emissions standards. A statutory consultation followed and results were presented to the Committee on [24 October 2017](#).

License Numbers for 2017/18

Please find below a summary of the License numbers received by month in 2017/18:



Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO)

Following a fatal fire in a property in Glasgow in 1999, legislation was introduced to implement HMO licenses under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006. The landlord of the property which went on fire applied for an HMO license. As part of the inspection process which is regularly undertaken by Glasgow City Council the landlord has recently been prosecuted successfully for not having appropriate arrangements in place for his HMO properties. This example demonstrates the importance of HMO inspections for the safety of those living in rental properties. City of Edinburgh Council carry out regular inspections of HMO properties and take appropriate actions on enforcement where necessary. The link below summarises the Glasgow case for information.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-43640615>

Street Trading

The consultation on a revised policy for pedicabs and conditions of licence has closed and there has been a good response. A project of enforcement activity is now underway with Police Scotland to investigate current levels of compliance and safety of existing pedicabs and their drivers. The final report will be submitted after the summer recess to allow results of the project to be included.

The Council licences HMOs under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006.

The operation of pedicabs in the city is licensed by the City of Edinburgh Council by means of Street Trader licensing, in this instance with respect to the offering of a service (pedicab rides) for money.

Training of Taxi Drivers and Private Hire Car (PHC) Drivers

Work continues on implementation of training for Taxi and PHC drivers but there have been a number of delays in completing this. It is hoped that a follow-up report will be presented to Committee in the autumn.

Veterinary Expertise for Riding Establishments

As outlined to members during a meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee on 1 May 2018, a procurement exercise has been undertaken to secure ongoing veterinary expertise for Riding Establishments. Five tender bids were received, of which three met the tender specification. From this a successful bidder has now been identified. The service will now write to all affected licence holders providing appropriate information on likely bills in future years.

A second procurement exercise is underway for the general service of veterinary expertise for all other licence types where a vet is required or requested.