# **Business Bulletin**

## **Regulatory Committee**

12.30pm, Monday, 5 February 2024

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



# **Regulatory Committee**

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
Convener Councillor Neil Ross	Councillor Jack Caldwell Councillor Denis Dixon Councillor Margaret Graham Councillor Martha Mattos-Coelho Councillor Joanna Mowat Councillor Susan Rae Councillor Val Walker Councillor Norman Work	Rachel Gentleman Carolanne Eyre Committee Services

Recent News		Background	Contact
LICENSING			
Short-Term Lets (STL) Applications		The Regulatory Committee approved a Short	Andrew Mitchell Head of
Total no. applications  Of those applications:  Home Letting & Home Sharing - 563 Home Letting - 544 Home Sharing - 552 Secondary Letting - 1907  Licence type to be confirmed - 221.	3,787*	Term Lets Licensing Policy on 29 September 2023.  On 1 October 2022, a licensing scheme for short term lets opened in Edinburgh. Existing operators	Regulatory Services 0131 529 4208
No. applications granted	700*	had until 1 October 2023 to	
No. applications withdrawn	52	apply for a STL	
No. applications refused	0	licence if they wished to	
* As of 30 January 2024  The Licensing Service has provided all elements of STL accommodation with a licence number, in accordance with legis requirements. This will allow existing hos who were operating prior to 1 October 20 their property for bookings and to trade uplatforms whilst their application is considered.	continue to operate.		
Licensing performance  The current workload within the service is sitting at just over 8,000 applications at various stages of processing. The service continues to be extremely busy, however, by prioritising new applicants it is able to support new businesses to operate as quickly as possible (as renewal applicants can continue to trade following submission of an application).  Temporary licences are a large part of the weekly workload, with on average 400 temporary applications being actively worked on at any given time. Appendix 1 provides details of overall workload			Catherine Scanlin Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208

in Civic that temporary licensing brings with it. This figure showcases the number of events that happen in Edinburgh and shows that on average a quarter of the service's work is on temporary licences every month.  Recruitment continues and interviews are scheduled for the second half of January to fill vacancies and to secure additional support from temporary workers.  HMO agent meeting  On 13 December 2023, officers met Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) agents who operate in Edinburgh to provide an update on areas which may affect the operation of HMOs over the next year, including:  • Operation of the Licensing Service; • Enforcement activity; • New HMO Best Practice Guide; • Upcoming amendments to the Repairing Standard which come into effect in 2024; and • Short term lets.  The meeting also gave agents the opportunity to raise any queries and discuss any relevant topics with Council officers. Councillor Neil Ross, Convener of the Regulatory Committee, also attended to observe the discussion.  The meeting was a useful forum for the agents and officers to share information, and further meetings are planned in 2024.	Council officers have agreed to meet with trade sectors across the licensing spectrum on a regular basis, in order to keep the trade informed of any developments which may have an effect on their operation in the city. The meetings provide a forum to discuss any prevalent issues and to improve communication with licence holders.	Catherine Scanlin Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208
Short term lets  Committee asked officers to investigate why flat numbers for properties in tenements are not appearing on the short term lets licensing register.  Applications are entered on the register using the initial information provided by the applicant. If full information has not yet been received, it may not be possible to fully identify the flat number. As applications progress through the system this is resolved as part of the checks carried out on the application.		Catherine Scanlin Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208

#### Gala days

Initial consultation sessions were held on 13
November 2023 with Gala Committees, and during
January 2024 with operators of equipment/inflatables.
A further meeting will be held with the Gala
Committees at the end of January 2024 and a report
(including recommendations) will be presented to
Committee in May 2024.

On 4 December 2023 Committee asked officers to consult with stakeholders with respect to certain Public Entertainment Licence application fees, in particular for licences for gala days and community events including provision of amusement devices.

# Catherine Scanlin Licensing

Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208

#### Hire Car Trade Group (HCTG)

The HCTG met on 15 December 2023 and discussed:

- Licensing update;
- Age of vehicles and emissions;
- Driver training;
- Licensing Hub update;
- Enforcement and compliance;
- Short Term Working Group; and
- George Street consultation.

The meeting was well-attended, resulting in detailed discussions and frank views were expressed by the trade representatives. Trade representatives highlighted that the trade in general was under a great deal of pressure.

Future dates for meetings in 2024 have now been provisionally identified as:

- 23 February
- 26 April
- 28 June
- 30 August
- 25 October.

The HCTG was established to provide taxi and private hire trade representatives with an opportunity to meet regularly with Council officers. Council officers provide an update on ongoing workstreams, consultations and areas of common interest, and the trade can share any concerns that they may have.

#### Catherine Scanlin

Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208

#### Age and emissions

There are currently 1,164 licensed taxis and 2,552 licensed PHCs.

The number of taxi licences is currently below the 1,316 limit. Interim demand surveys were previously carried-out every six months and reported to Committee. It is not intended to resume interim surveys until the number limit of issued licences is approached.

In 2023, 216 applications were received asking for vehicles to be made an exemption to policy:

N4 4h-	Continued	Grant	Refuse	Withdrawn	Grand
Month	Continued			witnarawn	Total
Jan	1	16	1	0	18
Feb	3	5	1	0	9
March	0	15	1	0	14
April	0	19	0	1	22
May	0	10	0	0	10
June	4	13	4	0	21
July	2	12	0	0	14
Aug	1	16	0	2	19
Sept	0	31	0	1	32
Oct	1	16	0	1	18
Nov	2	15	1	0	18
Dec	0	21	0	0	21
Total	14	189	8	5	216

85% of taxis and PHCs now comply with the Age and Emissions Policy.

The policy is next due to be considered by Committee in May 2024. In the meantime, officers will continue to effect the extension of the age limit for certain vehicles (as agreed in May 2023).

On 16 March 2018, Committee agreed an Age and Emissions policy for taxis and PHCs, which took effect from 7 May 2018. The policy was designed to:

- Introduce an age limitation in respect of taxis and PHCs; and
- Incrementally increase the minimum emissions standards for the engines in these vehicles, which will improve emissions standards

The policy was last amended on 1 May 2023.

Catherine
Scanlin
Licensing
Manager
0131 529
4208

#### Applications granted using delegated powers

Following consultation with the Convener of the Licensing Sub Committee and feedback from members, officers have used delegated powers to grant the applications listed in Appendix 2. These are being reported to Committee for information purposes only.

Historically these applications would be sent to Committee for determination. However, in the absence of objections, representations or being contentious, the current scheme of delegation allows officers to grant.

#### Catherine Scanlin

Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208

#### TRADING STANDARDS

#### **Consumer Duty**

Section 21 of the Consumer Scotland Act 2020 Act imposes a 'Consumer Duty' on public bodies, which must take into account the impact that strategic decisions may have on consumers in Scotland, and the desirability of reducing harm to consumers in Scotland when considering how to exercise their functions. 'Consumers' in this case will include small businesses.

This is not yet in force, as the implementing legislation has not yet been laid, but this is now expected in April 2024.

A new consumer body, Consumer Scotland, was created by virtue of the Consumer Scotland Act 2020.

#### Tom Veitch

Trading
Standards
and
Enforcement
Manager
0131 469
3871

# Licensing Enforcement: Taxis and Private Hire Cars (PHCs)

The initial breakdown of these complaint outcomes by category is attached at Appendix 3.

521 driver and vehicle compliance checks have been carried out since 1 October 2023, including working in partnership with Police Scotland, with an overall compliance rate of 97%. 51 of these compliance checks were carried out specifically in relation to wheelchair access, with all 51 vehicles checked being fully compliant.

As requested by Committee on 4 December 2023, outcomes of complaints made in relation to taxi and private hire car licensing have been recorded since 1 October 2023.

#### **Tom Veitch**

Trading
Standards
and
Licensing
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Manager
0131 469
3871

# Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2024-2030 for consultation

The Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee approved the draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan for consultation on 15 December. The Plan details how the city must adapt to deal with the shocks and stresses caused by climate change. Climate change will have impacts on the staging of events, business and service provision, private sector housing and the health and safety of tenants, private travel hire and other related sectors in the city.

The Plan includes actions on adapting the city's build environment, housing stock, transport and travel infrastructure and working with all types of business across the city to raise awareness of and build resilience.

#### Fiona McLeod

Senior Climate Change and Sustainability Officer The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and a Nature Emergency in 2023. A key ambition of Edinburgh's 2030 Climate Strategy was the development of the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan to continue the process of adapting the city to the impacts of climate change. The Edinburgh Adapts Partnership has led this work on behalf of the city.

The draft Plan has 8 priority themes:

- Planning and the built environment
- Water management and resilience
- Coastal adaptation
- Sustainable transport
- Safeguarding and enhancing our natural environment
- Strong, healthy community and economy
- Building understanding of climate risk
- Governance and risk

A 12-week citywide public consultation on the draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2023-2030 has been launched. During this period, a number of engagement exercises will be held, including workshops targeting the city's public, private and third sectors and internal partner workshops to ensure that the actions in the plan assigned to them are correct and align with their organisational priorities.

A final version of the plan will be brought to Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval following the consultation period. The consultation launched on 15<sup>th</sup> January and responses can be submitted using the following link:

https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/climate-ready-edinburgh from this date.

Contact for further information climatechange@edinburgh.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

Appendix 1

Temporary Licences 1 April to 31 August

Licence Type	Year					
Licence Type	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	
Cinema Licence	1	0	2	0	1	
Late Hours Catering Exemption Licence	2	3	6	0	9	
Late Hours Catering Licence	4	0	0	0	3	
Market Operators	77	77	65	16	105	
Outdoor Area Permits	28	307	306	160	0	
Occasional Licences	2477	2404	2425	952	1,972	
Premises Extended Hours Applications	36	44	26	1	268	
Public Charitable Collection Licence	35	21	8	2	61	
Public Entertainment Licences	110	97	60	7	86	
Street trader licences	6	12	3	0	359	
Street Trader Employee Licence	3	4	3	0	149	
Fireworks Dispensation	1	1	1	0	1	
Hypnotism Licence	2	1	0	0	0	

Indoor Sports Licence	0	1	0	0	0
Short Term Lets Licences	15	0	0	0	0
Second Hand Dealers Licence	4	0	0	0	4
Totals	2847	3015	2932	1143	3083

#### Temporary Licences 1 October to 31 December

Licence Type	Υ	ear
	2023	2022
Cinema Licence	1	0
Late Hours Catering Exemption Licence	0	4
Late Hours Catering Licence	1	0
Market Operators	36	32
Outdoor Area Permits	0	55
Occasional Licences	939	1139
Premises Extended Hours Applications	34	54
Public Charitable Collection Licence	19	18
Public Entertainment Licences	32	40

Street trader licences	5	11
Street Trader Employee Licence	0	0
Fireworks Dispensation	0	0
Hypnotism Licence	0	0
Indoor Sports Licence	1	0
Short Term Let Licence	13	0
Second Hand Dealers Licence	1	1
Totals	1082	1354

#### Appendix 2

			Hours of			2023 App
Zone	Туре	Dates	Operation	Information	£ Cost	No.
		18 Nov 23 to 15				508407
	PEL - capacity 1000	Dec 23	1000-2200		£1,973	300407
		16 Dec 23 – 6				
		Jan4 excluding				510735
S	PEL – capacity 1000	30-31 Dec	1000-2200		£1,973	
en		18 Nov 23 to 15	10am to 10pm	10 units at £104		508405
Gardens	MOL	Dec 23	daily	each	£1,040	300403
			1000-2200 daily			
St			except 30 & 31			
es			Dec: 1000-2330			510734
l 2		16 Dec 23 – 06	& 1000-0100	10 units at £104		
Princes	MOL	Jan 24	respectively	each	£1,040	
st		18 Nov 23 to 15	10am to 10pm	Amusement		508406
West	Funfair addition to PEL	Dec 23	daily	devices 6 - 20	£2,960	300400
			1000-2200 daily			
			except 30 & 31			
			Dec: 1000-2330			510739
		16 Dec 23 – 6 Jan	& 1000-0100	Amusement		
	Funfair addition to PEL	24	respectively	devices 6 - 20	£2,960	

	PEL - Capacity 5000	17 Nov 23 to 14 Dec 23	1000-2200		£ 3,957	508394
	PEL – Capacity 5000	15 Dec 23 – 6 Jan 24	1000-2200 except 31 Dec: 1000-0100		£3,957	510747
ardens	MOL	17 Nov 23 to 15 Dec 23	1000-2200	28 Days - 75 units at £104 each	£5,000 (max charge for MOL)	508398
ses St Ga	MOL	16 Dec 23 – 6 Jan 24	1000-2200 except 31 Dec: 1000-0100	28 Days - 75 units at £104 each	£5,000 (max charge for MOL)	510751
East Princes St Gardens	Funfair addition to Pel	17 Nov 23 to 14 Dec 23	10am to 10pm daily	Amusement devices 2 - 5 (Wheel, Helter, Techno, Star Flyer, Train)	£1,202	508399
	Funfair addition to PEL	15 Dec 23 – 6 Jan 24	1000-2200 except 31 Dec: 1000-0100	Amusement devices 2 - 5 (Wheel, Helter, Techno, Star Flyer, Train)	£1,202	510754

ea –	PEL - Capacity 600	17 Nov 23 to 14 Dec 23	1000-2200		£1,973	508410
Rink Ar	PEL – Capacity 600	15 Dec 23 – 6 Jan 24	1000-2200		£1,973	510759
George Street Ice Rink Area Block 1	MOL	17 Nov 23 to 14 Dec 23	1000-2200	£104 – fee per stall for up to 28 days 3 units	£312	508409
George	MOL	15 Dec 23 – 6 Jan 24	1000-2200	£104 – fee per stall for up to 28 days 3 units	£312	510764
St Andrew Square	PEL - Capacity 300	18 Nov 23 to 15 Dec 23	1000-2130		£1,973	508412
St An Squ	PEL – Capacity 300	16 Dec 23 – 6 Jan 24	1000-2200		£1,973	510775

North End	MOL	17 Nov 23 to 15 Dec 23	1000-2200	£104 – fee per stall for up to 28 day - 40 Units	£4,160	508413
George Street Block 2 & Castle Street North End	MOL	16 Dec 23 - 6 Jan 24	1000-2200	£104 – fee per stall for up to 28 day - 40 Units	£4,160	510767
ock 2 & C	Funfair addition to Pel	17 Nov 23 to 14 Dec 23	1000-2200	Amusement devices - 2	£1,202	508414
Street Bl	Funfair addition to Pel	16 Dec 23 – 6 Jan 24	1000-2200	Amusement devices – 2	£1,202	510769
George					TOTAL: £51,296	

### **HOGMANAY**

HOGMANAY LICENSES		Dates/Hours	Capacity/Info	Fee	APP ref
Torchlight	Parades &	29-Dec-23	Meadows → George IV Bridge → Johnstone Terrace → Castle Terrace		513233
Procession Permit	Processions	1930-2200	20,000 participants	N/A	

Fireworks	Fireworks				513235
Dispensation	Dispensation	31-Dec		N/A	
		29-Dec-23;			513236
Torchlight PEL	PEL	1800-2200	Meadows; 20,000 Capacity	£ 16,625	
		29-Dec-23;			513246
Torchlight MOL	MOL	1200-2200	3 x vendors	£312	
			Bjorn Again & Massaoke 6000 Capacity. (30th)		513249
		30 & 31	10,000 in WPSG.		
		Dec; 1700-	40,000 on the street		
Night Afore Disco		0100 max	EPSG open until 00:30 to ticket holders only		
Party & Hogmanay	PEL up to	extent of	Addition of Waverly Scottish Music Stage		
CITG	50,000	hours	Silent Disco on Market Street	£ 16,625	
	MOL with 25	30-31 Dec;	11 x Additional (to existing Christmas ones) Concession		513251
Night Afore Disco	vendors	1700-0100	Units		
Party & Hogmanay	total	max extent	11 x (additional to existing Christmas ones) Bar Units		
CITG - MOL		of hours	3 x Merchandise stall	£ 2,600	
St Andrew Sq	Cinema	26-30 Dec			514776
Cinema				£206	
			TOTAL:	£36,368	

#### **OCCASIONALS**

- 510519 Castle St 17-30 Nov
- 510521 Castle St 1-14 Dec
- 510522 Castle St 15-28 Dec
- 510527 Castle St 29 Dec 6 Jan
- 510423 George St 17-30 Nov
- 510513 George St 1-14 Dec
- 510515 George St 15-28 Dec
- 510517 George St 29 Dec 6 Jan
- 510455 West PSG 18 Nov 1 Dec
- 510457 West PSG 2-15 Dec
- 510458 West PSG 16-29 Dec
- 512407 West PSG 30-31 Dec replaced by **517521**
- 512409 West PSG 1-6 Jan
- 510421 East PSG 17-30 Nov
- 510461 East PSG 1-14 Dec
- 510463 East PSG 15-28 Dec
- 512410 East PSG 29 Dec 6 Jan **replaced by 517519**
- 515441 Street Party 31 Dec
- 517509 Greyfriars Kirk 1 Jan

Appendix 3

Category of Complaint	Not upheld	Partially upheld	Upheld	Total
Driving Manner	10	7	11	28
Aggressive Behaviour	7	4	5	16
Illegal Plying for Hire	11	14	26	51
Overcharging	6	1	0	7
Complaint from a Cyclist	1	0	0	1
Miscellaneous	9	1	7	17
Dress Code	6	0	26	32
Smoking	1	1	11	13
Licensed vehicle involved in accident	2	1	0	3
Poor customer service	0	0	2	2
Vehicle used when not of required standard	7	1	32	40
Inappropriate parking	7	1	20	28
Mobile phone use	2	0	0	2
Fare refused	1	2	0	3
Percentage	28.8%	13.6%	57.6%	
Total	70	33	140	243