

Business Bulletin


Regulatory Committee

10.00am, Monday, 2 October 2023

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



Regulatory Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p data-bbox="156 342 448 421">Convener Councillor Neil Ross</p> 	<p data-bbox="635 342 1107 703">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</p>	<p data-bbox="1187 342 1477 421">Taylor Ward Committee Services</p> <p data-bbox="1187 501 1477 636">Andrew Mitchell Head of Regulatory Services</p>

Recent News	Background	Contact						
LICENSING								
<p>Short-Term Lets</p> <p>As at 18 September 2023:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="148 439 802 539"> <tr> <td>Total no. applications</td> <td>703</td> </tr> </table> <p>Of the 703 total:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="148 640 802 813"> <tr> <td>No. applications processed</td> <td>369 (106 home letting, 80 secondary letting, 83 home sharing, 100 home letting and sharing)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. applications granted</td> <td>206</td> </tr> </table>	Total no. applications	703	No. applications processed	369 (106 home letting, 80 secondary letting, 83 home sharing, 100 home letting and sharing)	No. applications granted	206	<p>The Council has previously expressed strong concerns about the impact of the short term letting industry on the city called for additional regulation of the sector. On 1 October 2022 the licensing scheme for short term lets opened in Edinburgh. The Regulatory Committee approved a Short Term Lets Licensing Policy on 29 September 2022</p>	<p>Catherine Scanlin Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208</p>
Total no. applications	703							
No. applications processed	369 (106 home letting, 80 secondary letting, 83 home sharing, 100 home letting and sharing)							
No. applications granted	206							
<p>Taxi licences</p> <p>There are currently 1,227 taxi licences in operation in the city, with 89 further licences available.</p>	<p>The Council licenses taxis and Private Hire Cars under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.</p>	<p>Catherine Scanlin Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208</p>						
<p>HMRC Checks - Taxi and Private Hire Car Drivers and Booking Offices</p> <p>In March 2023 Committee were advised that HMRC were introducing compulsory checks for Taxi and Private Hire Car drivers and Booking Office licence holders on their tax status. This check will now take effect for all renewal applications lodged from 2 October 2023.</p> <p>Licensing bodies will need to obtain confirmation that an applicant has completed</p>	<p>Tax conditionality is an additional tax check that needs to be carried-out when a licence holder applies to renew a licence. This check is carried-out by licence holders online via their HMRC account. They are then</p>	<p>Catherine Scanlin Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208</p>						

<p>a tax check before making a decision on their renewal application.</p> <p>Details of the legislative changes can be found in Part 7, paragraph 342 of the Finance (No. 2) Act 2023 (legislation.gov.uk)</p> <p>Guidance has been updated to reflect the changes that will apply in Scotland and can be found here.</p>	<p>provided with a code to give to their licensing authority when applying for licence renewals. The Council will not be able to grant a licence without that being completed.</p>	
<p>Licensing workload/backlog</p> <p>The workload position continues to improve – outstanding work has now reduced to 4,400 applications.</p> <p>Only 129 of these are part of the backlog, having taken longer than 12 weeks for initial consideration.</p>	<p>Committee requested an update on progress in dealing with the operational backlog</p>	<p>Catherine Scanlin Licensing Manager 0131 529 4208</p>
<p>Licensing Forum</p> <p>The Forum’s next meeting is scheduled for 6 October 2023, at which it is anticipated that the Forum’s response to the Licensing Board’s review of its policy will be discussed.</p>	<p>Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 requires a local Licensing Authority to establish a Licensing Forum.</p>	<p>Isla Burton Trading Standards Officer 0131 529 4208</p>
<p>TRADING STANDARDS</p>		
<p>Vapes</p> <p>Supported by Police Scotland, between May and July 2023, the Trading Standards Team undertook 55 targeted enforcement visits to check stock on retail premises and seize non-compliant items.</p> <p>Officers seized 4,689 illegal vaping devices. with an estimated retail value of over £85,000.</p> <p>The Trading Standards team is following up these seizures to establish importation and supply routes, and are continuing retail visits throughout the city. Targeted visits will also continue.</p>	<p>Vaping devices and liquids must be formally registered with the Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Authority. Although widely available, non-registered vapes are not permitted on the UK market. Many non-registered vaping devices contain harmful chemicals or have a larger ‘tank size’</p>	<p>Tom Veitch Trading Standards and Licensing Enforcement Manager 0131 469 3871</p>

	than the permitted 2ml.	
<p>Smarter regulation: UK product safety review</p> <p>The Office for Product Safety and Standards has launched a consultation on proposals to develop a new product safety framework. Further details are available here.</p> <p>The Council does not intend to respond to the consultation directly but will support the national response being prepared by the Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland.</p>	<p>The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is part of the Department for Business and Trade.</p> <p>The Trading Standards team currently undertakes Local Market Surveillance.</p>	<p>Tom Veitch</p> <p>Trading Standards and Licensing Enforcement Manager</p> <p>0131 469 3871</p>
<p>Animal Welfare licensing consultation</p> <p>The Scottish Government is seeking views on proposals to extend licensing to currently unlicensed animal-related services and also update the licensing framework for other existing licensed animal-related services.</p> <p>The new licensable activities which are being considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dog walking, • dog grooming, • providing livery services, • offering canine fertility services, • Greyhound racing. <p>The second part of the consultation seeks views on replacing existing legislation covering animal boarding (including day care) and riding establishments.</p> <p>Officers are currently preparing a draft response. Full consultation details are available here.</p>	<p>The Council is already responsible for animal boarding and riding establishments under legislation dating back to the 1960's, and is responsible for Animal welfare in relation to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021.</p> <p>A report to Committee on 31 March 2022 set out the implementation of the new animal welfare licensing regime.</p>	<p>Tom Veitch</p> <p>Trading Standards and Licensing Enforcement Manager</p> <p>0131 469 3871</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH		
<p>A business case has been prepared for the recruitment of three Trainee posts. Initially the posts will support students already on a University of the West of Scotland (UWS) course with the future aim to encourage and support school leavers to take-up a career in Environmental Health. The business case now has provisional approval from HR and awaits approval from Finance.</p> <p>Environmental Health has recruited one new Environmental Health Officer and one student from UWS, has been interviewed and offered a post subject to passing their professional exams in September 2023.</p>	<p>At its meeting on 1 May 2023, Committee requested an update on the recruitment of Environmental Health Officers (EHO) and Food Safety Officers (FSO) and efforts to train and recruit more students.</p>	<p>Stephen Williamson Environmental Health Manager 0131 529 4934</p>