

## Minute of Special Meeting Regulatory Functions Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 29 November 2018	10:00	Corporate Meeting Room 2, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

**Present:** Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

### Chair

Councillor McNaughtan, Convener, presided.

### In Attendance

A McLaughlin, Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Regulatory Services), E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer, A Easdon, Licensing Officer, G Easdon, Senior Business Relationship Manager and D Adkins, Business Relationship Officer (all Finance & Resources).

### Apologies

Councillors Audrey Doig and Mackay.

### Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Board resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part I of schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

### **1 Hearing into Possible Suspension or Revocation of Taxi Driver's Licence - Personal Appearance**

The Board considered the possible suspension of the undernoted Taxi Driver's Licence. The licence holder had been asked to appear personally for the first time together with Doug Paulley, complainer who would participate in the meeting by way of remote video:-

Stewart Williamson

Mr Paulley, complainer, was brought into the meeting by way of remote video and Mr Williamson, licence holder, was invited into the meeting. After consideration of all matters before the Board, the Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Regulatory Services) asked Mr Williamson if he wished to address the Board on any sanction the Board might impose on his licence prior to any motions being made in relation to his Taxi Driver's Licence. Mr Williamson then addressed the Board.

Following consideration of these submissions, the Board adjourned to allow members to consider this matter. The meeting was reconvened and Mr Paulley was invited back into the meeting by way of remote video and Mr Williamson was invited back into the meeting. The Convener proposed that Mr Williamson had breached the Council's dress code for taxi and private hire drivers; that there was insufficient evidence in relation to whether Mr Williamson had restrained Mr Paulley's wheelchair in his taxi; that it was clear that Mr Williamson had not offered the seatbelt restraint to Mr Paulley; that Mr Williamson be reminded that he must offer the seatbelt restraint to all wheelchair passengers he carried in his taxi; and that no sanction be made at this time. This was agreed unanimously.

The Convener further proposed that as the matters raised were concerning to Members of the Board, officers within the Licensing Section remind drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles that seatbelt restraints must be offered to all wheelchair passengers carried in their vehicles; that training for drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the use of seatbelt restraints be discussed with the taxi trade; and that all taxi and private hire car drivers be reminded of the Council's dress code for taxi and private hire car drivers. This was agreed unanimously.

### **DECIDED:**

(a) That Mr Williamson had breached the Council's dress code for taxi and private hire drivers; that there was insufficient evidence in relation to whether Mr Williamson had restrained Mr Paulley's wheelchair in his taxi; that it was clear that Mr Williamson had not offered the seatbelt restraint to Mr Paulley; that Mr Williamson be reminded that he must offer the seatbelt restraint to all wheelchair passengers he carries in his taxi; and that no sanction be made at this time; and

(b) That as the matters raised concerned Members of the Board, officers within the Licensing Section remind drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles that seatbelt restraints must be offered to all wheelchair passengers carried in their vehicles; that training for drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the use of seatbelt restraints be discussed with the taxi trade; and that all taxi and private hire car drivers be reminded of the Council's dress code for taxi and private hire car drivers.