

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Licensing & Regulatory Committee

1 April 2022

TITLE:	Licensing Enforcement Activity
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Mike Bowen - Portfolio Holder for Communities
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alicia Patterson - Head of Environmental Health
WARDS INVOLVED:	All

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To update members in relation to the enforcement activity undertaken within the Licensing Section.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the committee notes the contents of the report.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 In the period November 2021 to February 2022 the Licensing service has remained operational throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic and engaged in a number of enforcement actions. These activities have involved reactive responses to complaints and intelligence received from the public and partner agencies as well as proactive compliance checks. It is pleasing to report that the Licensing Section has noted a good level of compliance overall.

- 3.2 Officers seek to encourage licence holders to conduct their activity in a safe manner, maintain good standards and to comply with the law. Officers have to exercise considerable discretion when approaching individual licence holders. Licensees are often anxious to comply with the law and for such cases the officer's role will be to provide guidance and advice. However, in carrying out their functions officers are authorised with a wide range of powers and may, for example, require entry at all reasonable times or require the production of certain documents.

- 3.3 If, on enquiry, officers find evidence that the law is being broken and

enforcement is required, they can respond in various ways. They may instruct or warn by letter; revoke or suspend a licence; and, where the circumstances warrant it, they may formally caution or prosecute without prior warnings and without recourse to alternative sanctions. Officers will have due regard to the relevant Enforcement Policies when determining the most appropriate course of action.

- 3.4 Below is a summary of enforcement activity carried out during this period. The figures shown below include the contacts made with the Taxi Drivers and Operators, all contacts have been in relation to the renewal process. Licences to drive hackney carriages and private hire vehicles need to be renewed annually or three yearly. The Council sends one reminder out to our drivers 60 days before their licence is due to expire, advising of any additional checks including DBS and Medical assessments, MOT requirements etc.

Area	Applications Received / letters sent out	Issued	Rejected
Charity Collections House to House	6	6 Permits issued	0 Rejected
Charity Collections Street Collections	6	2 Permits issued	0 Rejected
Pavement Licenses	1	New Application	
Personal Alcohol Licenses	25	25 of which 17 were new applications and 5 were changes to Holders' details 1 addition of convictions 2 surrenders	
Road Closure Orders	8	8 RCO issued	0 Rejected
Small Society Lottery Chase up letters	23		
Small Society Lottery Renewal Letters	76		
Taxi Drivers	25		
Taxi Hackney Vehicles	9		
Taxi Operators	1		
Taxi Private Hire Vehicles	16		
TENS with Alcohol	13		
TENS LATE with Alcohol	10		
TENS without Alcohol	0		
TENS LATE without Alcohol	0		
Vary DPS	18		
Transfers	7		

Street Trading Renewals	1		
Lapsed Premises Licence	1		
Time Limited Premises Licence Applications	2		
Full Variation of a Premises Licence	1		
Applications for the Grant of a Premises Licence	2		
Surrender of Premises Licences	4		
Surrender of Gambling Premises	1		
Pub watch attendance	3		
Joint enforcement visits with Staffs Police	12		
Joint enforcement with Immigration	1		

3.5 The Council has not issued any penalty points to drivers or operators since the last report.

3.6 In addition to the above the Licensing Section has responded to a number of complaints and request for service in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

4.1 The appropriate enforcement of licensing legislation in partnership with relevant agencies is a key tool in assuring the safety of our residents and visitors.

5. **Alternative Options**

5.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

Mark Trillo
Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Contact details

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