

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT
TO THE LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

19 September 2018
ALL WARDS

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR OF THE LICENSING
& PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE:**
August 2018

1. Summary
 - 1.1 This report advises the Committee of action taken by the Chair under authority from the Licensing & Public Protection Committee, together with an explanation as to why this authority was used.
2. Recommendation
 - 2.1 That the report be noted.

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3. Background Information

- 3.1 On 16 March 2007 Section 52 of the Road Safety Act 2006 came into force. This has had the effect of enabling a licensing authority to suspend or revoke a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence with immediate effect – meaning that the suspension or revocation takes effect immediately once notice of the authority's decision has been given to the driver – where this decision is considered necessary in the interests of public safety.

4. Summary of Action Taken for August 2018

- 4.1 On 14 August 2018 authority was sought to revoke with immediate effect the private hire driver licence held by driver reference 6619. On 14 August 2018 the Licensing Enforcement Section received information from West Midlands Police: on 18 July 2018 it is alleged driver reference 6619 used a knife to slash someone across the abdomen area causing bleeding and held them against their will between 18 July 2018 and 7 August 2018. The driver has been released on bail.
- 4.2 The interests of public safety being considered paramount, an authorisation of the Director of Regulation and Enforcement, acting in consultation with the Chair, was obtained and on 14 August 2018 notice was hand delivered personally to driver 6619's home address, advising that his private hire driver licence was revoked with immediate effect, in accordance with Sections 61(1)(b) and 61(2B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 4.3 On 23 August 2018 authority was sought to revoke with immediate effect the private hire driver licence held by driver reference 26780. On 23 August 2018 the Licensing Enforcement Section received information from West Midlands Police: on 30 June 2018 it is alleged driver reference 26780 inappropriately touched a female passenger, the matter is still under investigation.
- 4.4 The interests of public safety being considered paramount, an authorisation of the Director of Regulation and Enforcement, acting in consultation with the Chair, was obtained and on 23 August 2018 notice was given to driver 26780, advising that his private hire driver licence was revoked with immediate effect, in accordance with Sections 61(1)(b) and 61(2B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

5. Implications for Resources

- 5.1 No specific implications have been identified; however, drivers retain the right to appeal through a Magistrates' Court, which may result in the imposition of costs either to or against the City Council.

6. Implications for Policy Priorities

- 6.1 The contents of the report contribute to the City Council's published policy priority of improving the standards of licensed vehicles, people and premises in the City.

7. Implications for Equality and Diversity

- 7.1 The actions identified in this report were taken in accordance with the Regulatory Services enforcement policy, which ensures that equality issues have been addressed.

DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT