

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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

13 March 2019
ALL WARDS

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR OF THE LICENSING
& PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE:**
February 2019

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 February 2019

- 4.1 On 5 February 2019 authority was sought to revoke with immediate effect the hackney carriage driver licence held by driver reference 3325. On 5 February 2019 the Licensing Enforcement Section received information from West Midlands Police: Driver 3325 was arrested on 1 February 2019 for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. Driver 3325 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 5 February 2019 notice was hand delivered personally to driver 3325's last known address, advising that his hackney carriage driver licence was revoked with immediate effect, in accordance with Sections 61(1)(b) and 61(2B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.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 8 February 2019 authority was sought to suspend with immediate effect the private hire driver licence held by driver reference 46809. On 8 February 2019 the Licensing Section received the following information: Driver 46809 passed out at the wheel of his private hire vehicle and subsequently collided with a lamppost.
- 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 8 February 2019 notice was hand delivered personally to driver 46809's last known address, advising that his private hire driver licence was suspended with immediate effect, in accordance with Sections 61(1)(b) and 61(2B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 4.5 On 22 February 2019 authority was sought to suspend with immediate effect the private hire driver licence held by driver reference 104572. On 22 February 2019 driver 104572 informed the licensing section that he became unconscious while driving a licensed private hire vehicle and as a result crashed the vehicle and is currently in hospital.
- 4.6 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 22 February 2019, notice was posted to driver

104572's last known address, advising that his private hire driver licence was suspended 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