

THE FIFE COUNCIL –SPECIAL MEETING OF THE REGULATION AND LICENSING COMMITTEE - GLENROTHES

23rd July, 2025

10.00 am – 10.25 am

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Adams (Convener), Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw
Alistair Cameron, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, David MacDiarmid,
John O'Brien, Gordon Pryde, Jonny Tepp and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Steven Paterson, Solicitor/Legal Team Manager- Regulation, Helena Couperwhite, Committee Manager, Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer and Craig Ritchie, Civic Government Licensing Enforcement Officer, Finance and Corporate Services; Sergeant Neil Ewing, Police Scotland (Fife Division).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Patrick Browne, Margaret Kennedy, Carol Lindsay, Donald Lothian and Nicola Patrick.

211. CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP

The committee noted that Councillor Margaret Kennedy had replaced Councillor Eugene Clarke as a member of the Regulation & Licensing Committee.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982

212. SUSPENSION OF TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE

The Council's Legal Team Manager, reported to the Committee that a number of decisions had been taken by the Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services using the powers given to her under Section 2 of the Council's List of Officer Powers 'Emergencies and Cases of Urgency' to suspend taxi/private hire car driver licences with immediate effect under paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 to the above Act having advised the Convener and Depute Convener of the Committee of these decisions. The decisions, in each case, were taken on information received from Police Scotland (Fife Division) which had to be considered prior to this meeting of the Committee.

Decision

The Committee noted that a number of taxi/private hire car driver licences had been suspended with immediate effect.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee resolved, under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the items of business at 169 – 171 below on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

213. CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OF LICENCE

The Committee considered exercising its power of suspension under paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in respect of the undernoted licence, and having heard the representative for Police Scotland (Fife Division) dealt with the licence as shown:-

	<u>Licenceholder</u>	<u>Type, No. of Licence & Expiry Date</u>
(a)	Jason Fitzsimmons (Not in attendance)	Taxi Driver's Licence No 9857/0051098 Expiry Date: 5 November 2025

Decision

The Committee agreed to suspend the licence on the grounds that (i) the Licenceholder was not considered to be a fit and proper person to hold the licence due to the information received; and (ii) the carrying out of the activity by the Licenceholder to which the licence related was likely to cause a threat to public safety.

Following the Committee decision to suspend the Licenceholder on the foregoing grounds, the Committee then considered the period of the suspension to be imposed.

The Committee accordingly agreed to suspend the licence until its expiry as detailed above, that is, 5th November 2025.