

Licensing Activity report: Q2 & Q3 1st July 2021 to 31st December 2022

1. Context

The council's Licensing and Enforcement Team covers the licensing of taxi drivers, vehicles and operators, licensed premises and temporary events notices, along with more infrequent applications relating to, among other things, markets, street trading, scrap metal dealing, sex establishments and gambling.

Licensing of food premises and other commercial businesses subject to regulatory activity is carried out by the Environmental Health team.

Licensing matters managed by the Licensing & Enforcement Team

2. Taxis

The activity over the period in question has been as follows:

New driver applications	47
Renewals	86 (12 PHD, 74 DD)
New applicants who have attended training	11
Resits of knowledge test	3
Existing drivers who have attended update training	46
English Competency tests taken	132
English competency tests taken with appropriate adjustments	1
Passes	59
Fails	74
Number of individuals	72
Decisions taken by Service Manager – Licensing &	2 (Appeal against Licensing

Enforcement under delegated powers	Record Points Issued. 1 upheld, 1 dismissed)
Decisions taken by Head of Housing and Health under delegation in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee	1 (decision regarding fitness and propriety of new applicant with convictions – refused)
Upheld	n/a
Dismissed	n/a
Appeals of decision – decision by court	0
Upheld <i>council not successful in defending its decision</i>	n/a
Dismissed <i>council successful in defending its decision</i>	n/a
Prosecution sought	0
Successful	
Unsuccessful	
Judicial reviews	0

There is a strong desire among both members and officers to build on the council's work to promote high quality taxi licensing. Through the Herts and Beds Licensing Group and HCCSP work has been ongoing with regards to drafting a Countywide vehicle emissions policy.

Linked in with the Hackney Carriage trade we have started a review of the ranks across the district to ensure that they are in the right location and service the needs of the customers and support the trade. There are a number of factors affecting rank use, as illustrated by the recent unmet demand survey, so the Licensing Team is taking wholistic approach to addressing these.

3. Premises

During Q2 & Q3 of last financial year 4 applications were decided by Licensing Sub-Committees. There is a significant amount of work for officers whenever there is a contested application, and the costs of a Licensing Sub-Committee are not covered by the fees set by Central Government. The details of the matters brought before Licensing Sub-Committees are shown below.

Premises/Person	Location	Type of application	Resolved
White Horse Hotel	Hertingfordbury	Premises Licence Variation	Granted with Conditions
Anthropos Festival	Furneux Pelham	New Premises Licence	Granted
Copper Tod	Hertford	New Premises Licence	Granted with Conditions
Adnams	Bishop's Stortford	New Premises Licence	Granted with Conditions

4. Temporary Event Notices

The number of TENs received by the authority in Q2 & Q3 was 321 which was 33 more than in the same period of 2021.

As members are aware only the Police and Environmental Health can object to a TEN.