

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Licensing Committee – 16 June 2022

**MATERIAL CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES – PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR
LICENCE – PH313**

Report by Head of Legal and Governance (Report No. 22/126)

Name and Address:	Mr Ralph M Laahs 37 Woodside Crescent Perth PH2 0EW Age: 65 years
9 Month Decision Date:	12 January 2023
Reason for Report:	The applicant has submitted a request to vary the terms and conditions of his operator licence, with regard to the age limit for replacing vehicles (see attached copy application and letter received 13 April 2022).
Background Information:	<p>Current policy is that a taxi or private hire car shall be no more than 10 years old from the date of first registration before being replaced, however all vehicles for a taxi or private hire operator licence if wheelchair accessible (WAV) must be no more than 12 years old from date of first registration before being replaced.</p> <p>The Applicant's vehicle was 10 years old from the date of first registration on the 29 May 2022. To comply with current operator conditions, the applicant would have been required to replace or remove his vehicle from service on or before this date, however due to the recent local elections, the Licensing Committee did not convene in May. The applicant was, therefore, unable to appear before the Committee prior to this date to ask Members for an extension to allow his current vehicle to remain in service beyond 10 years. The applicants' annual vehicle fitness test was also due to expire on 29 May 2022.</p>

	<p>As a decision could not be made before the 29 May 2022, the Applicant was asked to present his vehicle for testing to ensure it continued to be roadworthy and safe. This resulted in a temporary Certificate of Fitness being issued for the vehicle. This allows the applicant to continue to fulfil his school contract obligations only until the Committee met, and a decision made.</p> <p>In addition, it should be noted that at a meeting of the Licensing Committee on 20 February 2014, Members granted an extension for a period of 1 year to the applicant following a similar request. This was for a different vehicle the applicant owned at that time.</p>
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