

Licensing Committee

2 August 2017

Public Questions (1)

1.	Question from John Imossi to the Chair of Licensing Committee, Councillor Wendy Flynn
	In your review of taxi licensing policy, will you take a zero tolerance approach to drivers of taxis and minicabs, who refuse to transport assistance dogs?
	<p>Response from Chair of Licensing Committee</p> <p>The council recognises its role and responsibility under equalities legislation that includes its duties to ensure that licence holders comply with duties placed on them.</p> <p>Whilst the council cannot adopt a strict “zero tolerance” policy, because it will fetter the council’s discretion which will be unlawful, the council does have a wide discretion to set its own local policies.</p> <p>The council is currently reviewing its taxi and private hire licensing policy. The review will incorporate updates to equalities related legislative changes and guidance since the last review. As part of this and other proposed policy changes, the council will seek to strengthen its policy on matters of equality duty including sanctions for breaches of these duties by licensed drivers. Options that are currently being considered are the adoption of a penalty point scheme (which will include breaches of equality duty), revising the adopted “Relevance of convictions” policy and/or reviewing the council’s taxi enforcement policy.</p> <p>The revised policy will be subject to formal public consultation towards the end of the year which will be an opportunity for anyone to comment on any aspect of the policy including those relating to equality duty.</p>