



## LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 2024

### PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**SUBJECT: LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE  
DRIVERS**

**REPORT BY:**

Emma Watkins

**MEETING AND DATE OF  
MEETING:**

21<sup>st</sup> May 2024  
Licensing and Regulatory Committee

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

**EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:**

The report contains information relating to a particular individual (paragraph 12).

**FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:**

There is a public interest for the process to be open and transparent when councils consider the fitness or suitability of applicants for of taxi driver licences.

**PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:**

The report includes sensitive personal information relating to the licensee.

**MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:**

That paragraph 12 should apply. My view on the public interest test is that whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of a Public Authority for decisions taken in relation to taxi drivers, this must be balanced against the fact that the report contains sensitive personal information about the applicant which must remain exempt from publication.

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering whether to exclude the press and public from the meeting when this agenda item is being considered.

**RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:**

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

**Signed: Emma Watkins**

**Date: 13/05/2024**

**Post: Licensing Officer**

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I accept the recommendation made above.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. K. ...".

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 13/05/24