

(b) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCES - PROCEDURAL AMENDMENT (AN175-2011)

It is reported that owing to a change in access arrangements to the DVLA computer system the City Council has been sending mandates signed by applicants for licences to the DVLA to obtain computer printouts of information held by them. This has been as part of the application process and licences have not been issued until such time as the DVLA response was received. This response is now taking longer than previously. There has also been an increase in the number of mandates being returned as queries e.g. a signature data match upon historic data held by the DVLA not matching the applicant's current signature. Such instances result in further delays.

In the three year period that these checks have been carried out the DVLA information has not revealed anything that the Police were not already aware of. This may not however, be the case in future years and it is therefore intended to continue with these checks but to seek approval from the Committee to grant temporary Taxi Driver's Licences where Tayside Police checks have found nothing untoward and they have reported that they have no objections to the application. This will allow applicants to engage in employment quicker than at present albeit only on a temporary licence for a six week period during which the DVLA printout should be received. Should the DVLA printout show anything untoward then the matter would be reported to the Licensing Committee when the full application was due to be heard. This is similar to the procedures currently carried out regarding Unique Tax Reference (UTR Number) checks from HMRC.

The Committee is requested to approve the above amendment to the application procedure.