

# LICENSING COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHEET

## 19 FEBRUARY 2025

Exemption from Policy – Street Knowledge Test  
Applicant: - Kashif Iftikhar

### INFORMATION NOTE

Mr Iftikhar is seeking an exemption from the Committee Policy that states that an applicant for a Taxi Driver or Private Hire Car Driver licence must pass the street knowledge test.

The test aims to ensure that all taxi and private hire drivers have a knowledge of the city including the layout of its roads and the location of landmarks.

Mr Iftikhar has previously sat the street knowledge test on 12 separate occasions but did not pass.

It should be noted that on 27/09/2022 Mr Iftikhar offered a sum of money of £700-£800 to the Enforcement Officer who was invigilating the test, to be passed and again on 08/11/2022 Mr Iftikhar again offered the same sum to the Civic Licensing Standards Officer who was invigilating that test, to be passed.

Both offers were immediately refused.

It should be further noted that Mr Iftikhars exams of 08/11/2022 and 15/10/2024 were not marked as he was noted using his mobile phone to look up answers during the tests.

Mr Iftikhar has failed all 4 sections of the test on every occasion he has sat it except one (on 12/09/2023).

Mr Iftikhar previously applied to the committee for the same exemption on 03 May 2023 which the committee determined to refuse.

The Committee has before it an email from Mr Iftikhar indicating the grounds under which he is seeking the exemption.

Should the Committee be minded to grant the exemption Mr Iftikhar is aware that he will be required to submit an application for the Grant of a Taxi Driver or Private Hire Car Driver Licence as he is not currently the holder of such a licence.

### COMMITTEE GUIDELINES/POLICY

Licensing Committee policy states that all applicants for a Taxi or Private Hire Car Driver licence must pass the street knowledge test prior to applying for the licence.

**Sat 19/10/2024 13:58**

Dear license committee,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to request your support in obtaining a taxi license from the Aberdeen City License Committee.

Due to personal circumstances, I am currently unemployed. I believe that working as a taxi driver would be a suitable opportunity for me, especially since I have over 15 years of experience in the hospitality industry, 3 years as a delivery driver in Aberdeen, and 6 months training with Rainbow Taxi. I have also communicated with the Job Centre about pursuing a taxi license, as I believe it will provide me with a more stable income.

Unfortunately, I have struggled with the knowledge test, particularly in understanding street signs and navigation. I have held my driving license for 13 years without any points or penalties. Given my background and the urgent need to provide for my family, I humbly request that the committee consider granting me a taxi license without requiring the test.

I am committed to ensuring a good quality of life for my family and children and believe this opportunity will help us greatly.

Thank you for considering my request. I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,  
[Kashif Iftikhar]