

Private Hire Operators meeting

Thursday 29th April 2021 - Virtual Platform

Present:

Patricia Clyne (PC) Principal Licensing Officer
Steve Morris (SM) Senior Enforcement Officer
Lisa Timmins (LT) Senior Licensing Officer

Nick Astley (NA) Metro
Connor Loftus (CL) Triple Zero
Abdul Aziz (AA) Haslam

1.	Introductions and housekeeping
	No actions
2.	Minutes from last meeting
	No actions
3.	ARG grants
	<p>PC gave an update on the additional restrictions grants (ARG). £700 for licensed vehicle owners that meet the eligibility criteria. 1200 applications received. 400 processed for payment. Large number with errors meaning checks are taking longer.</p> <p>AA raised issue of renters of vehicles complaining about not getting the grant. PC advised the grant is to cover vehicle costs, if any monies remain after completion of grants other eligibility will be investigated.</p>
4.	Reopening of hospitality & Covid
	<p>SM discussed how many premises have stayed closed and plan to open on 17th May. He envisages busy times ahead and wondered how it will impact operators, and if they had lost drivers during the lockdown.</p> <p>CL stated there had been a slight increase in trade recently but expecting more at the next stage of reopening. They have lost some drivers to retail. Some have come back. Older drivers have chosen to retire early or still vulnerable and worried about returning.</p> <p>NA agreed with CL. Trade going back up steadily and doesn't think all drivers will return to work.</p> <p>PC advised a communication will be going out to on-licensed premises ahead of the reopening and asked for anything the operators would like to include to get the message out.</p> <p>NA stated the main message would be face coverings.</p>

	PC confirmed the Department of Transport will be providing disposable face coverings for the passengers and we will arrange distribution once received.
5.	Licence fees work
	PC discussed the piece of work which started on 1 st January to calculate the fees. Staff monitor their time spent on each activity. There will be a standardized formula used by Greater Manchester Authorities. Just wanted to share for information on what is happening in the background.
6.	PHO working party re MLS/DfT
	LT advised the working group for complaints was in progress. There has been a slight delay due to the pandemic and hospitality reopening but it is still ongoing. Further updates will be shared as the process develops.
7.	Testing station update
	PC discussed the tender for the garages is due this year. Aim to be completed by August 2021.
8.	Licensing team update
	PC advised Elizabeth Pritchard has left the authority. SM has stepped up to cover the day-to-day duties over enforcement officers. LT is now senior over the licensing officers. Staffing levels have changed but will be fixed in the next couple of weeks and the trade will not be affected.
9.	AOB
	SM advised roadside checks with GMP have been completed. Standard was really good however some vehicles had screens installed. SM emphasised the importance of the screens being safe and not pose a risk to passengers. Asked for this message to be shared with drivers.

Next meeting: 29th July 2021