

Public Protection & Licensing Committee

This report is on behalf of the Chair, Mr Mark Olszewski, who asked me to submit the report. From Sept 2018 to August 2019 there have been 3 sub-committee hearings for premises and 24 for public protection (120 cases). From Sept 2019 to August 2020 there have been 2 sub-committee hearings for premises and 18 for public protection (90 cases).

There has been a flurry of hearings in September not included in these figures. There were only 6 appeals to Magistrate in the last year, though there are some in the pipeline. The new taxi licensing policy has been implemented and is working well. The new Pavement Licence regime has been introduced by the Business and Planning Act 2020. This includes the relaxation of off-premises sales of alcohol from certain premises. We are not aware of any adverse effects of this relaxation. The PHV/HCV licence application forms are being rolled out online.

Currently NuLBC licence 79 Private Hire Operators, 656 Private Hire Vehicles, 173 Hackney Carriage Vehicles and 994 Taxi/Private Hire drivers.

I would like to pay tribute to the staff and Councillors who have worked to keep this service open during a very difficult period. In particular, the way the sub-committee consisting of Mark Olszewski, myself, legal counsel and staff in deciding what cases must go before the appropriate committee under the new licensing regime has worked particularly well and I have enjoyed working with Councillor Olszewski in such a productive manner.

Cllr Graham Hutton, Vice-Chair Public Protection & Licensing Committee.