

## REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	Subject: PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENSING – CARRYING OF GUIDE, HEARING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE DOGS	
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 27 April 2004	Ref: WBK/KH	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1. To advise the Committee of the Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences (Carrying of Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs) (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

**2. BACKGROUND**

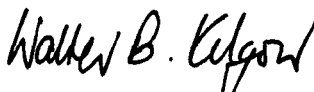
- 2.1. At its meeting on 10 March 2004 the Committee was advised of Scottish Executive proposals to introduce regulations designed to require licensed private hire drivers to carry guide, hearing and other assistance dogs accompanying disabled people, and to do so at no extra charge. The regulations follow on from the introduction of the Taxi Drivers' Licences (Carrying of Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs) (Scotland) Regulations 2002.
- 2.2. The Scottish Executive has moved very swiftly on the issue and the Committee is now advised that the Private Hire Car Drivers' Licence (Carrying of Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs) (Scotland) Regulations 2004 came into force on 31 March 2004. Accordingly, all private hire car drivers' licences for which application for grant or renewal is made after 31 March 2004 will be subject to a condition requiring the driver to carry assistance dogs, unless medically exempted.
- 2.3. The Committee was previously advised that the corresponding taxi drivers' regulations have been in force for some time and are working well. There have been no applications for medical exemption to date. In addition, in 2003 the Committee used its discretionary licensing powers to introduce familiar regulations for private hire and therefore the Council was one step ahead of national regulation.

**3. CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1. The matters detailed in this report are in line with the Council's ongoing commitment to ensuring that services within the direct responsibility or regulation of the Council are disabled friendly.

**4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1. The Committee is asked to note the coming into force of the Private Hire Car Drivers' Licences (Carrying of Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs) (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

  
p. Director of Administration

*(Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Kenny Hannaway, Senior Solicitor (Licensing) on Extension 2214.*