



TAXI AND GENERAL SUB COMMITTEE – 11TH SEPTEMBER 2017

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

**SUBJECT: LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE
DRIVERS**

REPORT BY: INTERIM HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Information relating to a particular individual (para 12)

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest with regard to disclosing personal information of persons who are granted a taxi licence.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report includes personal information relating to the Licence holder which is subject to a publicity ban endorsed by a Judge.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:


That paragraph 12 should apply. My view on the public interest test is that whilst there is a need to ensure transparency and accountability of a Public Authority for decisions taken in relation to taxi drivers, this must be balanced against the fact that some of the information contained in the Report is currently subject to a publicity ban endorsed by a Judge and is not in the public domain at this stage. To release the information at this stage would be in breach of the Order and could place the Authority in contempt of Court, thus the need to maintain confidentiality outweighs the need for the information to be made public.

This information is not affected by any other statutory provision, which requires the information to be publicly registered.

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information and that the information should be exempt.

Signed: 

Date: 25th August 2017

Post: Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

I accept/do not accept the recommendation made above.

Signed:


Proper Officer

Date:

25/8/17