



TAXI AND GENERAL SUB COMMITTEE – 5TH OCTOBER 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: PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

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 who is the subject of an allegation of inappropriate behaviour.

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 relates to an unproven allegation of inappropriate behaviour. To release the information at this stage may be detrimental to the complainant and the integrity of licence holder. The taxi and general licensing sub-committee have not had an opportunity to evaluate the evidence or the driver's response to the allegation. There is a need to maintain confidentiality which 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: 21st September 2017

Post:

Principal Solicitor

I accept/~~do not accept~~ the recommendation made above.

Signed:

Proper Officer

Date:

21/9/17