

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Licensing Committee (Non-Statutory Committee)

Date of meeting: 16 March 2023

Title: General Update

Purpose of the report: For information

The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 Part 4 (Special Procedures) **Mandatory national licensing scheme for special procedures (acupuncture, piercing, electrolysis and tattooing).**

'Special procedures' are defined in the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 as acupuncture, body piercing, electrolysis and tattooing. These are non-surgical aesthetic or therapeutic procedures involving perforation of an individual's tissue, skin or mucous membrane and insertion of needles, jewellery, objects or permanent/semi-permanent ink or pigments. These procedures are therefore capable of causing harm to human health.

The current legislative framework to ensure sustainable good standards of infection control and consistent enforcement is inadequate. Infection prevention and control standards for this industry are limited and not widely accepted by the sector. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 ('the 1982 Act') is the primary means of enforcing standards in this sector through the application of a registration scheme. However, the requirement for local authorities to adopt this scheme is voluntary and those that have adopted it cannot refuse registration of the individual or premises unless they have been convicted of an offence under Part VIII of the 1982 Act.

The new scheme aims to reduce infections, eliminate poor working practices and will create a central public register for licensed practitioners and approved business premises.

It is the final phase of changes introduced under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 to improve standards of infection prevention and control in the industry.

There are an estimated 3,516 practitioners operating in Wales who will need to be licensed, and 1,868 premises that will require approval under the new mandatory licensing scheme. Applicant will have to successfully obtain a Level 2 Award in Infection Prevention and Control.

A 12-week consultation has been launched by Welsh Government to seek the views of all stakeholders, including practitioners, local authorities and the public. The consultation was launched in January 2023 and will close on 19th April 2023. Details of the consultation can be found at [Special Procedures Licensing Scheme for Wales - Consultation document \(gov.wales\)](#)

Licensing Annual Performance - General Report

During the period 01/02/2022 – 31/01/2023 the licensing team have continued to receive and process a large number of licensing applications, renewals and transfers and amendments to licences. The team also investigates complaints involving the wide variety of licensing areas they are responsible for. In addition, the team receive and process a large number of Freedom of Information requests (FOI's), which often requires a certain amount of research and preparation in order to provide a response.

A summary of the number of licence applications and service requests (excluding the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 licence applications) is contained in the following table.

Types of Licences Issued: Taxis	No.
Taxi / Private Hire Vehicle	138
Dual Driver	76
Private Hire Operator	4
	218

Types of Licences Issued: Animal Licensing	No.
Animal Boarding	8
Home Boarding	7
Dangerous Wild Animals	0
Pet Shop	1
Dog Breeding	32
Riding Establishments	5
Zoos	0
Performing Animals - New	3
	56

Other Types of Licences Issued: Miscellaneous	No.
Caravan Control and Development Act 1960 – (Transfers)	3
Mobile Homes Act Applications	5
Body Decoration	3
Petroleum	6
Explosives	3
Film Classification	10
Scrap Metal Dealer	6
House to House Collections	9
Street Collections	20
	65

Recommendation(s):	Members receive this report for information.
Reason for recommendation	To advise elected Members of activity undertaken by the Licensing Section since the last Committee meeting and other relevant information.
Policy Framework:	The statutory functions delivered by the Licensing Team is a fundamental element of Public Protection policy framework.
Corporate Priorities	Boosting the Economy, Supporting Businesses and Enabling Employment
Finance and procurement implications:	Within budget
Service Area	Policy, Performance and Public Protection
Statutory Powers:	Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and any Regulations made under the Acts.
Background Papers	None
Corporate Lead Officer:	Alun Williams (Policy & Performance)
Reporting Officer:	Anne-Louise Davies (Trading Standards & Licensing Manager) & Gareth Rees (Senior Licensing Officer)
Date:	22 February 2023