

From: Foi Enquiries
Sent: 22 November 2018 13:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-18-1667 - Drivers References
Attachments: V2 - Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 6 November 2018. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

Please tell me whether your council has implemented the recommendations made by Sheriff John Beckett QC on 7/12/15 in the Fatal Accident Inquiry into the deaths of John Kerr Sweeney, Lorraine Sweeney, Erin Paula McQuade, Stephenie Catherine Tait, Gillian Margaret Ewing and Jacqueline Morton.

5.3 Glasgow City Council, when employing a driver, should not allow employment to commence before references sought have been received.

Please tell me how many drivers hired by your council have been allowed to begin employment without references since this recommendation was made.

None. We always ensure two referees are noted on the individuals C.V during the interview process and that no new employees are allowed to progress into employment until this is completed and cross checks are carried out.

5.4 Glasgow City Council should carry out an internal review of its employment processes with a view to ascertaining potential areas for improvement in relation to checking medical and sickness absence information provided by applicants, for example by having focussed health questions within reference requests for drivers and obtaining medical reports in relation to health related driving issues from applicants' GPs.

Please share with me any internal reviews that have been undertaken by your council since this recommendation was made.

For new starts (new drivers):

During the interview process there is a disclaimer for them to sign off in acknowledgement that they must disclose any medical conditions or any that may arise during their employment. If they don't then they will be taken through a disciplinary process and dismissed depending on the severity. Even after this, they must still attend a company medical prior to employment or work commencing.

For current employees, they are made fully aware of all the categories in which they must inform both the DVLA and the council. Failing to do this will again result in a disciplinary process being followed and dismissal depending on the severity. Driver checks are constantly being carried out by Fleet services and any issues are fed back to the appropriate service.

Drivers also undergo annual medical checks as part of DVLA licence requirements.

5.5 Glasgow City Council should provide its refuse collection operators with some basic training to familiarise them with the steering and braking mechanisms of the vehicles in which they work.

In regards to the above, please detail the training given by your council to refuse collection and large goods vehicle operators since this recommendation was made.

Crew members were given demonstrations on the use of the drivers controls, however, it was stipulated to them that they are

not permitted to touch any of these controls unless it is an absolute emergency – these controls are the driver's responsibilities.

Both the council and Fleet services through procurement are constantly looking at additional safety features that can be added at source on any new vehicles.

5.6 Local Authorities and any other organisations which collect refuse, when sourcing and purchasing refuse collection vehicles which are large goods vehicles, should seek to have AEBS fitted to those vehicles wherever it is reasonably practicable to do so.

Please can you tell me the number of refuse collection and large goods vehicles your council has acquired since this recommendation, and how many of these vehicles are fitted with Advanced Emergency Braking System (AEBS)?

ACC have purchased 33 vehicles in total with AEBS since this recommendation.

Please state the reasons why any vehicles have not been fitted with AEBS.

We have been unable to retrofit the system into some older vehicles.

5.7 Local Authorities and any other organisations which collect refuse, and which currently have large goods vehicles without AEBS but to which AEBS could be retrofitted, should explore the possibility of retrofitting with the respective manufacturer.

Please tell me the number of large goods and refuse vehicles that your council has in total, and how many of these vehicles are fitted with AEBS?

ACC have 94 large goods vehicles, 33 of these are fitted with AEBS.

Please state the reasons why any vehicles have not been fitted with AEBS.

In most cases older vehicles cannot be retrofitted with the system, all new vehicles purchased in the future will have this as standard.

5.8 Glasgow City Council should seek to identify routes between refuse collection points which, so far as is reasonably practicable, minimise the number of people who would be at risk should control be lost of a refuse collection lorry.

Please tell me whether your council has changed the routes of large goods and refuse lorries to minimise the number of people who would be at risk should control be lost of a lorry.

If so, please detail these route changes.

Yes, please see below for further explanation.

5.9 The potential for the presence of exceptional numbers of pedestrians at particular times should be taken account of as part of route risk assessment in refuse collection.

Please explain how the "potential for the presence of exceptional numbers of pedestrians at particular times" has been taken into account as part of route risk assessment in refuse collection.

From October 2015 we were in the process of conducting new route risk assessments for all the streets within the city after which we compiled a thorough database which is being implemented into our in-cab technology systems. All collections in and around schools, nurseries, high public areas are done when they are at the less busiest to limit as low as reasonably practicable the risk of any incidents / accidents. There are only limited circumstances when we are at these said premises during collections and that is if we have to travel near them get to the next collection route or at the end of the day when returning back to the depots.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Information Compliance Team

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.



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