

**Civic Licensing Standards Officer Update  
Regulatory Panel Meeting  
28 August 2025**

Further to my previous report in April, I can now provide updated statistics for taxi and private hire vehicle testing for the second quarter of 2025, compared to the same period in 2024.

<b>TAXI</b>	<b>TESTS</b>	<b>FAILS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
1 April – 30 June 2025	22	8	36%
1 April – 30 June 2024	27	2	8%
<b>PRIVATE HIRE</b>	<b>TESTS</b>	<b>FAILS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
1 April – 30 June 2025	41	4	10%
1 April – 30 June 2024	35	1	3%

As you can see from these figures there has been a notable increase in vehicle failures for both taxis and private hire cars during this period, which is disappointing.

**Details of Vehicle Failures:**

- **Taxi Failures (8 Total)**
  - **MOT Failures:**
    - 2 vehicles were classified as *"Do not drive until repaired (dangerous defects)"*
    - 5 vehicles were classified as *"Repair immediately (major defects)"*
  - 1 vehicle failed the **South Ayrshire Council fail sheet**
- **Private Hire Failures (4 Total)**
  - **MOT Failures:**
    - 1 vehicle was classified as *"Do not drive until repaired (dangerous defects)"*
    - 2 vehicles were classified as *"Repair immediately (major defects)"*
  - 1 vehicle failed the **South Ayrshire Council fail sheet**
  -

Examples of specific failures can be made available to members upon request.

**Civic Licensing Activity – January to August 2025**

The Licensing Team has remained extremely busy processing a wide range of applications. Below is a breakdown of civic licensing activity for the year to date:

**Driver and Vehicle Applications:**

- **83** Taxi/Private Hire **Driver** licences processed
- **83** Taxi/Private Hire **Vehicle** licences processed

**Public Entertainment Licences:**

- **30** licences granted covering a variety of events across South Ayrshire including:
  - Music festivals
  - Gala days
  - Community events
  - Charity fundraising events

The Licensing Team continues to work closely with event organisers to ensure all required documentation, especially safety documentation, is in place.

### **Upcoming Events and Planning**

- **The Ayr Show** is scheduled for next weekend. Planning for this event has been ongoing for the past nine months, involving several departments within South Ayrshire Council. We look forward to a successful event.
- **Firework Displays:**  
We encourage early engagement from organisers planning firework events. A minimum of **28 days' notice** is required to process these applications and ensure relevant services can report and coordinate appropriately, given the public safety considerations.

### **Other Civic Applications – January to August 2025**

- **22** licences granted for various civic licence types including:
  - Street Traders
  - Late Hours Catering (LHC)
  - Second-Hand Car Dealers
  - Second-Hand Dealers
  - Market Operators
  -
- **19 Public Processions** have been approved so far this year.

### **Festive Planning – Early Engagement Encouraged**

As we approach the festive season, we anticipate an increase in applications for events such as **Christmas Fayres, Markets**, and other seasonal activities. We strongly encourage all prospective organisers to **engage early** with the Licensing Team and ensure applications are submitted **at least 28 days prior** to any proposed events.

The Licensing Team continues to manage a high volume of applications across all areas of civic and liquor licensing. Early engagement remains key to ensuring applications are processed efficiently and public safety is upheld.

**Donna Scobie**

**Civic Licensing Standards Officer**

**28 August 2025**