

**Environment and Culture Directorate**

Director: Michael Hainge

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Dear Councillor

At the last full council meeting (5 March 2010) in a response to a question from Councillor Chris Chappell, the Chair of the Regulatory Committee, Councillor Brigadier Peter Jones, gave reassurances that no licensed taxi drivers had convictions, spent or unspent, for sex offences.

The response, whilst wholly correct, had inadvertently not included the answer to the second part of the question that asked about numbers of drivers with convictions, spent or unspent, for violent crime.

This omission was spotted shortly after the Council meeting and the figures on violent crime convictions have now been supplied to Councillor Chappell. I would like to apologise to members for not providing a complete answer to the question and am providing, below, the full response to all members to clarify the current position on taxi driver convictions.

There are no drivers with convictions, spent or unspent, for sex offences. There are currently 18 drivers with unspent convictions for violent offences, and 11 with spent convictions licensed to drive taxis in the county. The council's regulatory committee granted the licences only after applicants were questioned at a full hearing, to ensure there was no risk to the travelling public, and full Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks were carried out. Strict guidelines inform each decision, and in 2009 ten applications for a taxi licence were refused due to previous convictions.

You may also wish to be aware that we are currently reviewing many of the council's policies and procedures relating to taxi drivers, together with a wide range of other licensing issues, to ensure our licensing function remains in line with best practice. The council is also running training programmes for the members of the council's regulatory committee, which decides licence applications.

Yours sincerely

**PAUL NICHOLAS**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENT & CULTURE)**



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