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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>General Purposes Board</b>	<b>Date:</b> 8 February 2012
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Democratic Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b> FJ/LA/812/12
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Licensing of Booking Offices</b>	

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In April 2009 the Scottish Government made an order in terms of which it became mandatory for offices which take bookings from the public for the hire of taxis or private hire cars to obtain a licence. This provision came into effect from 16 November 2009.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 An approach has recently been made to the Clerk to the Board by a local member of the trade requesting that the Board consider the imposition of a condition on these licences that the booking office and call handling facilities must be placed and operate within Inverclyde Council boundaries. It is understood that this request is a response to recent approaches by companies outwith the district encouraging the outsourcing of local customer handling facilities to other areas.

## **3.0 COMMENTS**

- 3.1 It is understood that a number of other licensing authorities have imposed conditions of the above nature. Accordingly due notice having been given to the Chair and to Councillor Ahlfeld this report has been brought forward.

## **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That the Board agree to continue this matter for an appropriate period to allow for consultation with the local trade and other relevant local authorities with a final decision to be made after consideration of a further report.

Fraser Jarvie  
Legal & Democratic Services