

Report No: 102-2026

Appendix 2 on the Agenda

Briefing Note on Police Roadside Taxi Testing Operation

Subject:	Dundee Taxi Police Roadside Operation
Briefing note:	Dundee Taxis roadworthiness Strategy
Officer	Fraser Crichton, Corporate Fleet Manager

1 Background

The corporate fleet presently tests over 600 Dundee taxis annually at its Marchbanks workshop with qualified MOT mechanics enforcing Dundee City Council's taxi vehicle test of fitness incorporating the DVSA vehicle roadworthy guidance and the cities taxi licensing regulations.

Dundee City Council licensed taxis have for many years registered a 50% failure rate on their annual taxi test which bench marked against neighbouring local authorities 13% Angus 5% Fife highlights a concerning high level of failure in the city.

Dundee City Council has introduced several policies around testing procedures to try to reduce the high failure rate and although initially it had an effect the number has returned to its previous high levels.

In May 2025, a pilot project partnership was introduced by Dundee City Council's Corporate Fleet and Licencing departments along with Police Scotland to try and address the issues around the city's taxis roadworthiness. The pilot project introduced random roadside vehicle testing and was deemed a success with useful operational lessons on deployment learnt. Over 50% of the taxis tested failed.

2 Saturday 7th February Roadside Testing Operation

In December 2025 Police Scotland approached Dundee City Council to investigate a discussed follow up roadside operation on the taxi trade. The pilot was a similar approach with Police Scotland Traffic Police stopping random taxis on the cities taxis ranks and escorting them to the council's underground garage where two qualified council mechanics tested the vehicles with support from licensing and Police Scotland officers.

The roadside operation took place on Saturday 7th February 2026 between 4pm and 7pm. During this period 20 taxis were inspected ,12 taxis failed the test with their licence plates being removed and placed out of service until failures were rectified and inspected at Marchbanks workshops.

3. Failed Taxis (Attached Spreadsheet)

Six of the failed taxis related to inoperative lights on their vehicle with a seventh not carrying a required fire extinguisher in the vehicle.

Five taxis failed on more serious vehicle violations. Reports will go to Licencing Board.

1 x Inoperative Headlight

1 x Defective Brakes

2 x Illegal tyre treads

1 x No MOT certificate

4.Outcome

The taxi roadside testing involving Dundee City Council and Police Scotland was a highly successful co-operative operation that was very effect for 3 hours

The operation was stopped at 7pm as many taxis had taken themselves out of service with the assumption that their vehicle may fail the test. It was decided to finish roadside testing as the public were unable to gain access to any taxis in the town centre during inclement weather conditions.

5.Future Recommendations

On a small sample of 20 random taxi tests ,60% of the vehicles had to be taken out of service with five serious failures further highlighting the necessity to continue this programme.

With continued Police Scotland support we are looking to repeat this operation later this year to improve the taxi's roadworthiness in the city.

6 Friday 6th March Roadside Testing Operation

On the 23rd of February a review of the month's roadside taxi testing took place between Police Scotland and the Council. It was decided that due to high number of failures that a further operation taking a bigger sample number would be beneficial given the concerning number of serious failures

It was therefore agreed that learning from the 7th of February that we would add an additional testing lane and have two separate testing times anticipating that we only have a window of 90 mins before the taxi ranks in Dundee would be completely empty due to the operation.

On Friday 6th March 2026 roadside testing was set up between 5pm-6.30pm and 9.15pm-10.30pm. Within these two periods 44 taxis were roadside inspected with 21 of the taxis failing and having their taxi operation plates removed from their vehicles.

7 Failed Taxis (Attached Spreadsheets)

14 taxis failed for a variety of defects which are highlighted

Seven taxis failed on more serious vehicle violations. Reports will go to Licencing Board.

3 x Illegal tyre treads

2 x Engine Management Warning Indicator

1 x Major Engine Oil Leak

1 x Meter Out/Multiple defects/Repeat test failure

7 further taxis were issued with tyre limit advisory notices.

8. 2026 Operations.

Roadside Taxis Tested	64
Taxi Test Failures	33 (51.5%)
Committee reported failures	12 (18.7%)