



25th August 2020

Licensing and Public Protection
Town Hall
Castle Circus
Torquay
TQ1 3DR

Ref: M005584/SAR

Dear Shaun Rackley and Licensing Sub Committee,

I have been requested to give an account of the circumstances that led to me receiving 6 penalty points back dated to December 2019 which meant that I had a total of 9 penalty points in that licensing year.

Last year and since has been one thing after another and I've lost thousands of pounds. I have 4 taxis and 4 drivers besides myself. I was in hospital with pleurisy for a couple of weeks and then one by one every car developed a major issue which cost thousands of pounds. New inlet manifold a grand, new clutch a grand, 2 new headlights and command module etc. But the worst issue was the Kia. Some garage at some time had used a gasket sealer that had gone into the sump of the engine and clogged up the oil pick-up and blew the engine up at only 140,000 miles. It was off the road for ages as various unscrupulous suppliers of used engines sent wrong or damaged used engines to the garage. I then had to decide whether to scrap the car and get a new one or take out an expensive engine rebuild. Because the car is irreplaceable as a 6 seater and it's extended lifespan due to recent changes in licensing policy, I decided to spend a further £3000 on top of the thousands it had cost me so far.

I am not telling you all this to gain sympathy but to explain my circumstances and my state of mind. I always make sure as far as



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possible that drivers are prioritized over myself when it comes to the provision of a vehicle for them to trade in. I spent a long time without many days that I personally could work. I swapped cars around constantly to make sure drivers could work according to their preferred working hours and days off. It is for this reason that when I received a summons for FH14 ZVT doing 59 mph in 50 mph limit on the South Devon Highway in the early hours of the morning I could not be entirely certain who the driver was at that time. I could have lied and said it was definitely me and received a fixed penalty of 3 points and a fine. But what if there was evidence that it was not me? Then I am in a whole heap of trouble for attempting to pervert the course of justice. So I told the truth and went to court.

On the day of my court hearing my solicitor was offered a deal to plead guilty to speeding and receive 3 penalty points plus a fine. My solicitor asked me if I could say honestly that I was the driver and the truthful answer was that I could not say with absolute certainty that I was. I had hoped that my honesty would be taken into consideration but apparently you get penalised with 6 points for honesty and rewarded with only 3 points for lying. I am currently waiting to hear from my solicitor if it is possible for the court to review their decision because of the grave issues it has for me to have 9 points in the same year with licensing. When they awarded the penalty I didn't realise that it would be backdated to the time of the offence, I thought it would be dated 5th August 2020.

The earlier offence of exceeding a 30 mph speed limit was a lapse in concentration that even the best of drivers must succumb to occasionally, Who hasn't followed moderate traffic at 34 mph on a wide road without realising it. A lot of cars must have got caught that day by a manned speed detector and I have no excuse.

I was a taxi driver in 1987 and 1988 and resumed taxi driving in Feb 2007 until this current day. I don't believe that in all that time there has ever been a complaint about me, my conduct or my driving either from a member of the public or other licensed drivers.

My wife is a senior healthcare worker for an agency and as such she is sent to various locations to care for vulnerable people. Sometimes it's one to one in a residential area and sometimes it's in a nursing home or hospital. Many of these locations can be in places like the lanes around

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Ogwell or Chudleigh or Bovey Tracy. If my badge was revoked or suspended it would cause severe hardship. My wife doesn't drive so she relies upon me to take her everywhere. My car is a taxi and can only be driven by a licensed driver and is only insured to be driven by a licensed driver which means I am effectively banned from driving even though the courts haven't disqualified me. I had only just got through 2019 and then Covid 19 kills the Taxi trade. [REDACTED] usually contributes more than £400 per week to my company and due to Covid 19 and a medical centre cock-up is still not back to work. [REDACTED] has just returned to work this week after shielding since the outbreak. All of this means that I am not in a financial position to buy and insure another car to use to take my wife to work. In fact, the way things are if I was to be out of a job I don't think I'd be able to survive and everyone would be out of a job.

I think that the courts have already dealt over-harshly with me so I am asking the committee for leniency when reviewing my fitness as a taxi driver.

Yours Sincerely

Graham Tamplin.
