

Brian Peddie



Mr Rackley
Licensing & Public Protection
Town Hall
Castle Circus
Torquay
Devon
TQ1 3DR

28th September 2023

Your Ref: NEW/SAR

Dear Mr Rackley,

Many thanks for your letter dated 22nd September regarding my application for a Licensed Drivers Badge.

Please find attached all the documents that you requested, namely, the Enhanced DBS check, the medical certificate and Taxi Driver Test Certificate from Red One.

Please also find below the circumstances surrounding my conviction on the 15th May 2023 are detailed below:

I was driving as a trade plate driver at this time. For those who may not know what this entails, it is picking up vehicles from one location and dropping them off at another, anywhere around the country. These vehicles could be brand new vans or cars, coming straight off the docks, to old roadworthy bangers going to auction sites all over the country.

I would pick up and deliver from 3-4 vehicles each day, clocking up on average 400 miles per day. I carried out these duties for over 7 months and never incurred a speeding ticket or damaged any of the vehicles in my charge.

When getting into a new vehicle, I would immediately link my phone to the Bluetooth of the vehicle, but on some vehicles, due to their age, or incompatibility to my handset this was not always possible. In these rare circumstances, I utilised a phone holder which attaches to the back of an air vent to enable me to remain safely hands free.

On the day in question, I had picked up an Audi from Bristol and was taking it to one of the dealerships in Exeter. The Audi was on a 2016 plate, but for some reason would not allow a Bluetooth connection to my handset, I therefore used my mobile phone vent attachment to safely secure the handset.

Whilst on the M5, going south around Cribbs Causeway, I drove over a pothole and my phone and vent holder fell away from the vent and into the driver's footwell. This obviously worried me, as any loose items in the footwell are a dangerous hazard to the vehicle pedals. I therefore reached down with my right hand, keeping my attention firmly on the road ahead and my lane positioning, and picked up the handset. I then carefully transferred it to my left hand, without removing a hand from the steering wheel at any point and hooked it back into the vent holder device. As I did this, I drove past an unmarked police car, who then proceeded to pull me over and give me a ticket for holding a handset while driving. I explained what had happened to the two police officers, including showing them the vent holder, but they were not interested in the circumstance or danger this presented and just seemed very happy to be giving out a ticket.

At the time I felt incredibly disheartened by the incident, as I truly felt it was paramount to remove the device from the driver's footwell to reduce the risk of an accident to myself and/or other motorway users.

The fact this has now had an impact on my application to be a Licenced Driver for Torbay is devastating.

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain the circumstances of my driving offence and would be very grateful if you could look at the commitment I have extended, both financially and personally, to being a valued service provider to my local Torbay community.

Yours sincerely



Brian Peddie
Encs