

From: Scott Hannaford-Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 2:39 PM
To: Rackley, Shaun <Shaun.Rackley@torbay.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Licensed driver application

Gary King



RE Scott Hanfordhill

I would like to confirm I have known Scott for a good number of years, I have also employed him for over 2 years as security at one of my pubs.

I have always found him to be calm and very professional and totally trustworthy.

I am fully aware of his criminal record and the circumstances that it arose from. This happened in one of my pubs Ye Olde Well House in Paignton .. there was a man called [REDACTED] who has some mental health issues and he had been causing major issues through out the town at the time this incident took place, this included threatening people with a machete, he kept on entering our pub even though he was barred. One evening he came in and became very threatening towards myself, we called 999 and asked for police assistance, meanwhile Scott was in the pub and he spoke to [REDACTED] and convinced him to leave also he asked him not to come back, he dealt with this in a calm and professional manner leading to a peaceful resolution. About 2 hours later [REDACTED] returned with the machete (see cctv) he came in looking for Scott! We again called the police but by the time they arrived [REDACTED] had gone.

I called Scott and told him to be aware that [REDACTED] was looking for him with a machete, the following day Scott was in the pub and again [REDACTED] walked in and threatened Scott right in front of me and a number of other customers, he said he was going to stab him up ... he reached inside his jacket, as he did this Scott used what I would have considered reasonable force and took [REDACTED] to the floor, he then restrained him. I believe that Scott acted in the first instance in Self Defence but equally Scott was aware of the potential danger [REDACTED] posed to other customers in the pub. Scott checked to see if [REDACTED] had a knife and after assessing that there was no danger he let him get up and [REDACTED] left the pub. In my opinion Scott did nothing wrong and acted in order to keep himself and the public safe and only did what I myself or anyone fearing for their safety would have done.

Please consider allowing him to have his taxi licence as I really do believe he would be no trouble and would be a very decent taxi driver.

Yours
Gary King