



## WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, S.9 MC Act 1980, SS. 5A (3a) and 5B MC Rules 1981, R. 70)

STATEMENT OF:	JAMES WILLIAM NICHOLSON	
OCCUPATION:	TAXI DRIVER	
AGE IF UNDER 18 (IF OVER 18 INSERT "OVER 18")	OVER 18	

THIS STATEMENT (CONSISTING OF 3 PAGES EACH SIGNED BY ME) IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND I MAKE IT KNOWING THAT, IF IT IS TENDERED IN EVIDENCE, I SHALL BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION IF I HAVE WILLFULLY STATED ANYTHING WHICH I KNOW TO BE FALSE OR DO NOT BELIEVE TO BE TRUE.


DATED THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2013

SIGNATURE	
-----------	--

I am a self employed taxi driver, licensed by Torbay Council and I have been licensed since March 2012. I currently work for Riviera Taxis, which operate within Torbay. On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 at approx 00:15 hrs, I had just finished dropping off a set of passengers to Grange Road, Torquay, that I had picked up from the taxi rank on Vaughan Parade. I then proceeded to come down Princes Road East where there are a number of road works. I had just gone past the Egerton Road junction when I saw a vehicle travelling up Princes Road East at speed and the vehicle did not attempt to slow down. As it came towards me, I recognised the number plate of WG08 BFY, as this is the vehicle driven by another taxi driver called Imran. We both met just before the junction of East and West Princess Road and came to a stand still in the middle of the road, Imran had just gone past a empty space and came to a stop. Both vehicles were sat in the road for approximately a minute and then I decided to turn my vehicle lights off, as I refused to reverse up the road as it was a long way, whereas if Imran reversed it was only 5 car lengths. I then radioed through to my control at Riviera Taxis and spoke to Chris to explain that I was having a stand off with Imran in Princes Road East. A passenger then got out of Imrans vehicle and came up to my drivers window and said to me, "can you reverse back up the road so we can pass, as the taxi has passengers on board and he has right of way". I then replied, "That means I've got to reverse all the way up the road when all he's got to do is reverse 5 car lengths and I can pass and get through".

SIGNATURE:	SIGNATURE WITNESSED BY:
------------	-------------------------

The passenger then asked me "What company do you work for?" to which I replied "Riviera Taxis" and he then saw my door signs on the side of the taxi. The passenger then said "Not a problem, I'll have a chat with your boss", he then got his phone out and walked back to Imran's taxi. Another car came up behind mine which forced Imran to reverse, and I then pulled into a space that had been created. Whilst I was level with Imrans taxi, Imran then shouted from the open window "You fucking wanker, I ain't moving for you again", to which I replied "why don't you grow up?". As Imran tried to edge through the gap, he got level with the back door of my taxi and then tried to open the back door, to which he couldn't as my car as an automatic locking device. Imran then drove off up Princes Road East, and I returned to the taxi rank on Vaughan Parade, Torquay. When I got back to the taxi rank, I then got another job to Princess Road East, and proceeded to drive along Torbay Road, to the roundabout at Cary cottage, came around the roundabout and back along the Strand towards the clock tower roundabout. Just before I turned up Torwood Street, I saw Imran slowing down for the junction of the clock tower roundabout as he had just come down Torwood Street, he then proceeded to stick his middle finger up to me from the open window when he saw me turning up Torwood Street, this happened outside of Sizzles takeaway on Torwood Street. I carried on working through the night and had various jobs, one of which was to Paignton. At approximately 03:00 hrs, when I was travelling along the Torbay Road, I got to the traffic lights at the Belgrave Road junction and was sat in the left filter lane behind another car. I noticed that Imran was also sat at the traffic lights in the right hand lane behind another vehicle. The car in front of me raced off at speed and I merged in between then first vehicle from the right hand lane and Imrans taxi. From the traffic lights all the way down Torbay Road, I was tailgated by Imran who was sat near enough on my bumper. I then approached the clock tower roundabout and went around the roundabout, to find that Imran didn't go around the roundabout and did a u-turn around the island to get in front of me. I then followed him along the strand, where Imran slammed his brakes on, and stopped his taxi in the middle of the two lanes of traffic just before the pedestrian crossing. The lights were on green, so I was unsure why he had stopped, other than to try and make me crash into the back of him. I then saw Imran get out of his vehicle and start walking towards me, so instead of waiting for him to come over to me, I drove around the outside of his vehicle and joined the taxi rank. I looked in my mirror and saw Imran

SIGNATURE: 

SIGNATURE WITNESSED BY: 

running towards my taxi and when he got to the drivers window, Imran started banging on the window which was closed. At this point, one of the taxi marshals came over and stood by the drivers window and at that point I then opened my window. Passengers that were queuing, then got into my taxi and Imran was told to go back to his vehicle by the taxi marshal and he started walking towards his vehicle, at that point I said to Imran " If you want to carry this on, Shaun and Craig in licensing are going to hear about what's been going on tonight". Imran then turned around and walked back to my drivers window and threw a punch at me and caught the left hand side of my face as I was looking at him. Before I could react, the taxi marshal had pinned Imran to the floor and said to him, "You're under arrest for suspicion of assault". The second taxi marshal then came across to assist and while one of them was sat on Imran, they called for police assistance. I then said to the taxi marshal I had to leave and drop my passengers off, the taxi marshal then said to me, "You can't go anywhere, we want to know what you want to do about this offence". I then said "I've got people on board, I can't kick them out and I'll be back once I've dropped light. I'll return back to the rank and lock the car up and come and talk about what I want done about it". I then left the rank with my passengers on board and when I returned Imrans car and Imran had gone. I found the taxi marshal again and asked what had happened to Imran. The taxi marshal replied "the police officer had to move the taxi out of the middle of the road whilst the other officer took details from Imran. He wasn't arrested as they didn't know if you wanted to pursue the matter". The taxi marshal then radioed for the police to make them aware that I had returned and the police officers came to take details from me. I was advised to call 101 to report the incident and they left me their shoulder numbers, which are PC's 6622 and 159. I contacted the licensing department on Monday and asked for someone to contact me back about the incident and I also phoned 101 to report the incident as advised, but was told that the police officers were not back on duty until Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013. I then phoned back on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> November as I needed a crime reference number and this was given to me, which is FT/13/7623. *S Nicholas*

SIGNATURE: *S Nicholas*

SIGNATURE WITNESSED BY:

*[Signature]*