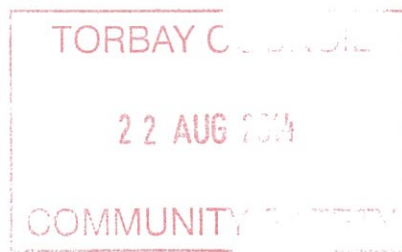


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Mr S Cox
Torbay Council

Mr S Cox

Please let me start by apologising that I did not inform you of my conviction within the five working days, as stated within the licensing handbook, I incorrectly believed that the five working days would have been from the date I was sentenced.

As you know, I was prosecuted for "FAILING TO GIVE PROMPT NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES RE ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFIT" Please note that this conviction did NOT include "Dishonesty". I pleaded guilty to this offence, at the earliest point, because there was no dishonesty within the conviction, and was down to myself not reading and filling the form in correctly. In the period of the offence, I was working as a taxi driver, working the night shifts, my wife had just returned to work, 8am till 4pm, after maternity leave. I was working the nights, 6pm till approx 4am, then looking after the baby from 7am as well as taking my eldest to and from school. I would do any required paperwork and housework, I would then get an hours sleep before going to work, so I found it very hard to concentrate on anything that required more than 30 seconds of concentration!

I am not making excuses for my mistake, just trying to explain what was happening in my life at the time I made the mistake. I fully regret that I did not make more time to make sure that all the paperwork was correctly filled out before returning it to the benefits department.

I have been a licensed taxi driver in Torbay for approximately twelve years now, I have never been in trouble within this period, either personally, or with licensing. I have had a very good relationship with licensing, and I am sure Mr C Noble and Mr S Rackley can confirm this. I am still working as a taxi driver, although now only use the taxi when needed. This is due to working for a minibus company now as well, driving a 16 seated minibus for Torbay Minibuses, Mr Darren Watts. Mr Watts has known me for approximately ten years, and I have been working for Mr Watts for approximately nine months. Mr Watts knows what has been going on and has stood by me all the way, helping to cover my runs etc so I can attend solicitor appointments etc.

I hope that you can see this was a simple mistake of rushing paperwork and not correctly filling it in, rather than an intentional attempt to defraud the benefit system. I am currently working a community order six hours a week, and paying back the benefits that I was over paid. I am not a dishonest person and hope that you will see that by looking back at previous history with licensing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Dawe-Smith".

MR PETER DAWE-SMITH.