



Please reply to: Mr Steve Cox

Community Safety

c/o Town Hall
Castle Circus
TORQUAY
Devon
TQ1 3DR

Mr Rodney Woolacott

(address removed)

My ref: R:227915/SJC

Your ref:

Telephone: 01803 208025

Website: www.torbay.gov.uk

Date: 6th April 2016

Dear Mr Woolacott

Re: Complaints about your aggressive behaviour, and about your refusal to carry a wheelchair and a guide dog for the blind

I am writing to you about a series of complaints and behaviour that appears to form a pattern that I would consider to be unacceptable as a Torbay Licensed Driver. I am therefore advising you that it is my intention to take this matter to a Licensing Sub-Committee for them to consider whether you remain a 'fit and proper person' to hold a Torbay Council issued Drivers Licence.

I will list the main complaints below so that you are able to consider them and should you wish to present any information to the committee within the committee report, to send that to me in writing by Thursday 14th April 2016. Some of these you will have seen and commented on before so I will include those responses within the committee report.

I currently anticipate the date of the hearing will be on Thursday 28th April 2016 commencing at 9.30am in the Meadfoot Room at Torquay Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3DR. You will also get the opportunity at this hearing to present any responses to the complaints. I will send you the committee report and confirm the date nearer the time.

On the 2nd December 2015, the allegation is that you refused to take a fare as they had a wheelchair that needed to be placed into the boot of your vehicle, but that was not possible as it was full of your personal belongings. You referred the fare to the vehicle behind who wasn't very happy with your approach and this resulted in an argument between you.

On the 26th February 2016 Torbay Council received a letter of complaint about taxi parking on the Harbourside Bus Bays and a paragraph in this letter refers to the driver of Plate 76, 412 DDV, your vehicle, swearing and making threats to a person, namely you were going to throw him in the harbour.

A second complaint Torbay Council received on the 26th February 2016, in relation to an incident on the 24th February 2016. In this complaint you allegedly punch and spat at a member of the public who had parked his vehicle illegally but not on a rank. There is some CCTV footage of the incident, which shows you getting out of your vehicle and taking photographs of the offending vehicle and its driver it also shows you stopping the driver leaving the area for a considerable period of time by standing in front of his vehicle.

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If you require this in a different format or language, please contact me.

On the 23rd March 2016 a complaint was received regarding your driving standards. The content of that complaint are subject to a letter from Craig Noble dated 1st April 2016, however for the purposes of this letter I copy the allegations below.

whilst approaching splatford split I could not move over to the left lane as swiftly as the driver above wanted me too, as I moved over he held his horn down, made hand gesticulations followed by flashing his lights. on getting to the top of telegraph hill A380 I caught up with the driver due to slow moving traffic, it became apparent that the driver was continuing to feel affronted due to my inability to move over swiftly enough and began a very dangerous game. whilst behind me, and he would not allow me or any other car driver to overtake him he continually speeded up and braked when alongside vehicles on the left handside, matching their speeds often slowing from over 80mph to 55 mph, this continued with every vehicle, once passed the left hand vehicle he would speed up, at one point I hung back at 75 mph and he was at least 800 meters ahead continuing to speed up until another vehicle on the left was reached then slam his brakes on, at one point just past the ideford dip he went alongside a coach and stayed in that road position for over a mile before speeding up, this continued until the flyover by which time there was a long queue of traffic in the right hand lane, drivers trying to undertake to get past him. at the flyover split as I pulled into the left lane to turn off her positioned his vehicle in such a manner it looked as this behaviour was going to continue or he was about to attempt to pull into the left and cut me up. on all occasions where the was long stretches of empty left hand lanes he would position his vehicle in a manner which looked as if he was going to pull into the left lane at times straddling the left lane to prevent any undertaking from the cars queuing behind myself. due to speeding up and slowing down between cars on the left lane he continually prevented me from pulling over to the left, speeding up and beginning to straddle the middle lane. the driving, the aggression and the control this driver was attempting to manipulate over myself and the vast number of vehicles stuck behind him during this episode of unacceptable driving was incredibly dangerous, causing driver to attempt to undertake him and other road users due to the frustration of this pathetic game.

On the 2nd April 2016 you were approached by two females, one with a guide dog for the blind and you refused to carry them, which is an offence in itself, however in addition to that the allegation is that you were rude to them.

All five of these complaints share the allegation that you were unable to control your temper and act in a manner expected of a professional driver, furthermore in several cases you became aggressive and arguably committed offences under several pieces of legislation.

As stated above, if you wish to include any information within the committee report, you need to provide that in writing by the 14th April 2016.

Should you need to contact us please quote the reference number above.

Yours sincerely



Mr Steve Cox
Environmental Health Manager Commercial
Licensing and Public Protection

Please note that, apart from personal details subject to the Data Protection Act, information contained in this letter may be divulged to members of the public under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.