

## **STATEMENT FROM PASSENGER'S MOTHER WITH MY RESPONSES IN BOLD TYPE**

My daughter and her friends picked up this taxi from waterfront in Torquay perhaps around 12.30 am Weds morning, I expect she may be able to give a clearer time in due course. It wasn't a straight forward journey back to the holiday cottage as the taxi didn't know where it was and they did get lost.

***Passenger initially gave me the wrong address. Using the address I was given via Satnav, we ended up at an address in Harbertonford, approximately 8 miles from what was the proposed final destination. Upon arrival in Harbertonford, passenger then realised she had given me the wrong address.***

They eventually made it to almost their destination, they were travelling down the lane (unnamed – comes off of Edgelands Lane at Biltor Cross towards Ambrook) that leads to the cottages at Newhouse Barton, this is a narrow typical Devon rural farm lane. The driver was driving too fast in my daughter's opinion for the road (National speed limits may apply, however we all know you can not drive safely at speed down these lanes). She passed her driving test herself just a month ago and so is acutely aware at the moment of the drivers driving style and of speeds. My daughter was sat in the middle of the back seat. All four of them had their seat belts on.

***I was not driving at speed due to foggy conditions and not being familiar with the area (certainly not more than 20 mph).***

My daughter said she knew he was going too fast and told him there was a bend coming up, feeling worried.

***At no time did any passenger tell me that I was going too fast. I fail to understand how the daughter could possibly know that there was a bend coming up if she was not familiar with the area (as proven by the fact that we initially travelled to Harbertonford) and the fact that visibility was so poor due to foggy conditions.***

He didn't slow down and I guess almost immediately then crashed, rolling the vehicle due to the speed travelled at.

***As mentioned above, the car was not travelling at speed. Due to poor visibility the car rolled up a raised bank on the left hand side of the road with gravity causing the car to roll over. Speed was not a factor in this. The fact that the air bags did not go off proves that there was no impact. I understand that air bags only go off when vehicles are travelling at more than 30 mph.***

**Police in attendance agreed that visibility was very poor due to foggy conditions. (Police report with Log number to be forwarded in due course).**

The car came to a stop on its roof, which was a glass roof and smashed in but held together so to speak so it didn't shatter on them. My daughter and her three friends were all able to get their seat belts off, albeit falling onto their heads and bracing themselves within the vehicle, and climb out of one of the back doors of the car.

**Neither passengers nor driver fell onto their heads due to them all wearing seatbelts. Ambulance service checked both driver and passengers with no reports of injuries to anyone. If there was even a suggestion of a head injury, the Ambulance service would not have let any of us go without a check up in hospital.**

The driver also got out. It's all naturally quite a blur for XXXX. She recalls the engine was still on and tyres still rotating around at speed. There was smoke coming from the car which frightened her as she thought it may go up so she seemingly climbed back into the car herself to switch off the engine thinking on the spot that this was the right thing to do to prevent the car catching fire. The time was around 1.15 am.

**Naturally we were all in shock after getting out of the vehicle. There was no smoke coming from vehicle with no smell of burning. I have no recollection of anyone climbing back into the vehicle to switch off the engine. I thought that I switched it off.**

The driver asked if they were all OK, they were alive and in shock but I think the natural thing to say is yes. He requested them to leave the scene telling them he would be in trouble and could lose his livelihood, he stated to them the car had malfunctioned. I believe his statements to them were seemingly to cover himself.

**I did not ask them to leave the scene. They asked if I needed them to stay. They walked to their cottage. They phoned me from the cottage about 20 minutes later to see if I was OK. When I asked them how they all were, they said 'We're all fine, we're doing shots'. (I can retrieve this phone conversation if required). At this point the police arrived and breathalysed me with a negative result.**

**Passengers returned later to give statements to the police and were checked over by Ambulance services in attendance. Ambulance services gave 'all clear' to us all and allowed passengers to return to the cottage. As stated previously, there is no way passengers would have been allowed to depart the scene, especially on foot, if there was any suggestion of any type of any injury, and certainly not a head injury.**

**Whilst I was being questioned by the police they confirmed to me that the passengers' statements corroborated with mine.**

**Statement saying 'I will be in trouble and I could lose my livelihood' is a blatant lie as is the suggestion that I told them that the car had malfunctioned. (I know very little about mechanics of vehicles).**

***Police called me a few days later to see if I was OK and to absolve me of any blame regarding the accident, and obviously that no charges would be made against myself. I can provide evidence of this call if required.***