

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE

7 JANUARY 2020

Present: Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
Councillors Derbyshire and Jacobsen

7 : EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Item 2 is confidential and exempt from publication as it contains exempt information of the description contained in paragraph 14 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The public may be excluded from the meeting by resolution of the Committee pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during discussion of this item.

8 : HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE MATTERS

RESOLVED – That the following matters be dealt with as indicated:

(1) Disciplinary Hearing 1

The driver had received the report and did not agree that the information was accurate.

Witness 1 recounted his version of events. The driver's representative questioned the witness. Witness 1 confirmed the details of the driver, the taxi licence number and the taxi vehicle on the night of the incident.

The driver's representative suggested that number plates could have been cloned. The driver could not recall any trips in connection with the witnesses' statement. He added that the driver had not had any previous complaints.

The Sub-Committee asked whether the driver could recall a journey to Maesteg and whether he had received payment. The driver indicated that he could not recall trips he made during the Rugby weekends and which fares were accepted for cash.

The Sub-Committee asked the driver to confirm that his witness statement was accurate. The driver disagreed with what he previously stated on the witness statement. The driver's representative stated that in his view not all transcripts are accurate.

The Sub Committee discussed all the information received. Members found the witness to be credible.

RESOLVED – That the Hackney Carriage / Private Hire drivers licence be suspended for 10 days and driver be required to complete the BTec Course in Transporting Passengers within 3 months.

(2) Disciplinary Hearing 2

Witness 1 addressed the Sub Committee. Members were advised that the witness was distressed and recalling being stranded with no money to return home. Both witnesses stated the incident was reported immediately as soon as they were home. They informed the police, banks and telecommunications company.

Driver's representative questioned Witness 1. Witness 1 did not remember the driver or using the Find My Phone app. Witness 2 via mobile video recognised the driver's face.

Driver's representative added that the driver had not had any previous complaints, and presented references to the Sub Committee. Driver confirmed he understood the policy regarding lost property.

The Sub Committee questioned whether the driver if he could recall where he was on the time of the incident as CCTV video recorded his vehicle in the vicinity. The driver stated he found it hard to remember where he was 3 months ago.

After careful consideration the Sub Committee gave significant weight to the witness statement and raised concerns the driver abandoned his passengers who were in a vulnerable position. CCTV evidence provided a record that vehicle was in the vicinity at the time of the incident and that the taxi picked up the witnesses.

RESOLVED – That the Hackney Carriage / Private Hire drivers licence be suspended for 20 days.

(3) Disciplinary Hearing 3

Adjourned sine die – driver did not attend

(4) Disciplinary Hearing 4

Adjourned sine die – driver did not attend

(5) Application 1

Adjourned sine die – driver did not attend

(6) Application 2

The Sub Committee received representations from an applicant who had committed two speeding fines. The applicant also had a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire drivers licence revoked by another local authority as a result of complaint made about his conduct.

The driver apologised for the speeding offences. He explained that the offences occurred at a time when he had some domestic problems. The

Local Authority took the precaution as standard protocol. The Local Authority did not deem the driver to be a threat to the public.

The Sub Committee were satisfied the driver understood the protocol regarding challenging passengers.

RESOLVED – That the application for a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers Licence be approved.

The meeting terminated at 1.55 pm