

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE

4 FEBRUARY 2020

Present: Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
Councillors Goddard and Robson

9 : EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The following item 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.

10 : HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE MATTERS

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

(1) Application 1

The Sub Committee receive representations from a witness who claimed that at driver had refused to take her to her destination. The witness stated that she had approached the first cab on the rank at the Central Train Station and asked to be taken to the Depot on Dumballs Road. The driver was said have 'smirked' and said to the witness 'walk, it's not far'. The witness stated that she was aware from the media that the driver was not permitted to refused to take her to her destination without good cause. She was not intoxicated or abusive and she advised the driver that should be making a formal complaint. The witness took photographs of the vehicle and left the area. She was able to get another taxi in St Mary Street.

The driver stated that as the witness approached the vehicle she had hiccups. The driver asked the witness if she was okay. The witness responded by swearing at the driver. At that point the driver refused to take the fare. The driver stated that the witness threatened to put photographs of his vehicle onto social media. He also questioned her motives for not taking the next vehicle on the rank. Members were advised that the driver has been working for 11 years and he had recently won an award from Ola for being the Best Taxi Driver in South Wales.

The witness stated that she training to be a police officer and she was an honest person. She had no reason to lie about the incident and she did not appreciate how the driver was portraying her. She refuted claims that she would put details of the driver on social media and the Sub Committee offered the opportunity to view her social media content from the time of the incident. She was not intoxicated or abusive at the time of the incident. She lone female and she was determined to bring forward the complaint to help to ensure that this doesn't happen to anyone else.

RESOLVED – That the hackney carriage / private hire driver licence be suspended by 10 days and the driver be required to complete the BTEC on the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver within 3 months for refusal of a fare.

(2) Application 2

The Sub Committee received representations from a driver who had received 6 penalty points in his DVLA licence for use of a mobile phone. The driver explained the circumstances. He was in London visiting family and he was using his mobile phone for navigation. The device was sitting in its cradle on the dashboard. Whilst stationary in traffic the driver touched the screen to turn off a notification message. This was witnessed by a Police Officer. He was subsequently charged with an offence.

RESOLVED – That the driver be required to complete the BTEC on the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver within 3 months.

(3) Application 3

The Sub Committee was advised that the applicant had received 6 penalty points on his DVLA licence and a £200 fine for using a mobile phone. The applicant stated that he was working as a delivery driver in route to a drop-off in Swindon. He was using the mobile phone for navigation.

RESOLVED – That the application for a hackney carriage / private hire drivers licence be approved.

(4) Application 4

The applicant did not attend the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the application for a hackney carriage / private hire drivers licence be refused.

(5) Application 5

Deferred for 1 month.

(6) Application 6

The Sub Committee was asked to consider an application from an applicant who had a number of convictions relating to dishonesty, violence and the possession and supply of controlled substances. Members were advised that the applicant had come to the UK as an eight year-old. He lost both his parents by the age of twelve. He was looked after by an aunt who was also a single parent.

The applicant was involved in petty crime from a young age. Those offences lead to more serious matters. Since his incarceration the applicant has transformed himself. He married in 2014 and he has two

children. He was now fully employed. His rehabilitation was supported by a number of testimonies received from pillars in his community. The applicant stated that working as a taxi driver would also him the flexibility to study.

RESOLVED – That the application for a hackney carriage / private hire drivers licence be refused.

The meeting terminated at 1.00 pm