

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE

1 DECEMBER 2020

Present: Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
Councillors Derbyshire and Hudson

1 : 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. RESOLVED – That the public 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.

2 : HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE MATTERS

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

(1) Application 1

The Sub Committee received representations from a driver who had received 6 driving penalty points for driving a vehicle without insurance. Members were advised that the driver had assisted a neighbour collecting a vehicle purchased in Barry. The driver had agreed to drive the car back to Cardiff after being advised by the vendor that he was insured to drive if he had fully comprehensive vehicle insurance. The driver was stopped by a Police officer. The Police officer advised him that he was not insured and he was subsequently asked to appear in court.

The driver stated that he pleaded guilty in court. He respected the law and he accepted that he had driven the vehicle without insurance. However, there was some confusion as to whether he was insured and his oversight had resulted in a mistake. The driver's representative stated that other than this incident he was a model driver with an unblemished record.

RESOLVED – That the driver receive a written warning for a driving offence.

(2) Application 2

Members were asked to consider the case of a driver who was charged with two counts of battery. The driver stated that the charges stemmed from a single domestic incident between himself, his partner and his stepson. The driver stated that there was no physical harm done to the parties during the incident.

RESOLVED – That the driver receive a 10 day suspension for battery.

(3) Application 3

The Sub Committee received representations from a driver who was convicted with overcharging customers and refusing to use the taxi meter. Members were advised that during a planned operation two student police officers asked to be taken from the City Centre to a location in Cardiff Bay. The customers were charged a £15 flat rate and the driver had refused to use the taxi meter when asked to do so. A Member asked the driver what the fare would normally be, the driver replied that it would usually be around £4-5.

The driver accepted that he has made a mistake and gave assurances that it would never happen again. He was willing to retrain and was already suffering financial hardship as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members were asked to consider a number of previous serious disciplinary issues involving this driver that resulted in appearances before the Sub Committee. The Sub Committee received a summary of those incidents.

RESOLVED – That the Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver Licence be revoked for overcharging and refusing to use the taxi meter.

The meeting terminated at 12.00 pm