

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE

11 MAY 2021

Present: Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
Councillors Goddard and Robson

3 : 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.

4 : HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE MATTERS

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

(1) Case 1

The Sub Committee were asked to consider the circumstances regarding a complaint received from a member of the public regarding the conduct of a driver following a road traffic collision. The Sub Committee received representations from the complainant, the driver and three witnesses.

The driver denied that he was at fault and stated that he was discussing the incident with the complainant amicably until the arrival of a third-party witness.

Members adjourned the meeting to consider additional representations and video footage provided by the driver's wife and daughter. Both wife and daughter were also then invited to make representations. There followed an opportunity for members to asked questions and seek clarification where necessary. During questioning Members were advised that the front bumper of the hackney carriage vehicle was hit but there was no significant damage.

The complainant provided her recollection of the incident. The complainant stated that when turning right into Newport Road she was involved in a collision with the drivers hackney carriage vehicle. The complaint stated that the driver swore at her and accused her of moving across into his lane. Both vehicles pulled into a bus stop. Members were advised that a female passenger exited the taxi and began to swear and accuse the complainant of being at fault. The female was filming the exchange on a mobile phone. She began to ask the complainant's passenger to come out of their vehicle. The complainant stated that at this point she became concerned about the welfare of her passenger – her son who has learning disabilities and behavioural issues. Members were advised that the rear wheel arch of the complainant's vehicle was hit leaving a few minor scratches.

The Sub Committee also heard representations from a witness to the incident. The witness stated that the driver had moved across into the complainant's lane and struck her vehicle. The witness admitted becoming angry because not only did the driver deny responsibility he was trying to blame the complainant for the incident.

The complainant stated that the driver of the hackney carriage refused to provide his details and therefore she was unable to leave the scene of the incident.

The Committee decided that on the balance of probabilities the driver's conduct fell below the standards expected from a professional taxi driver in Cardiff.

RESOLVED – That the hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence be suspended for two weeks due to unacceptable conduct.

(2) Case 2

Deferred

(3) Case 3

Deferred

(4) Case 4

The Committee was asked to consider a complaint received from a doctor who was employed to undertake medical fitness assessments of taxi drivers during the application process. It was alleged that the applicant attempted to bribe the general practitioner in order to pass his medical exam. He then became aggressive, intimidating and coercive to members of staff when the bribe was refused.

The Sub Committee received representations from the applicant concerned. There was then an opportunity for Members to ask questions. The driver denied that he had offered a bribe to the general practitioner.

RESOLVED – That that application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence be refused.

(5) Case 5

Adjourned sine die

The meeting terminated at 12.30 pm

This page is intentionally left blank