

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Appeals Sub-Committee held on
Thursday, 7 March 2024 at 12.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Sandford – Chair

Councillors: Sunita Hansraj Dr Lisa Redrup

Officers: Aaron Clarke Democratic Services Technical Officer
Elizabeth Lanlehin Locum Litigation Lawyer
John Goodwin Licensing Enforcement Officer

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act).

3. **Introductions / Procedure**

The Chair introduced panel members and officers and explained the procedure for the hearing.

4. **Fit and proper status to hold a Private Hire Driver licence**

The sub-committee heard representations from the appellant and Licensing Officer, based on the written report.

The Sub-Committee panel decided on the balance of probabilities to **take no action**.

Reasons:

In making its decision the sub-committee considered the following:

- Statutory provisions: S51,61 & 77 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976
- Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards issued by the Department of Transport in July 2020
- South Cambridgeshire District Council Private Hire and Taxi Policy
- Report of the Licensing Officer
- Advice from the Council's legal adviser
- Evidence as referred to above.

The sub-committee made its decision for the following reasons:

- The appellant was honest and open about his offences and what had occurred from his perspective.
- The panel noted the seriousness of the offence in question however, it was not connected to the appellant's driving.
- The appellant had never received any complaints after 13-14 years of working in the industry.
- The appellant had received very positive character references from his employers.
- The appellant showed genuine remorse over his conviction and admitted he should have dealt with it differently.

The Meeting ended at 2.00 p.m.
