

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Appeals Sub-Committee held on
Thursday, 23 November 2023 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Anna Bradnam – Chair

Councillors: Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya Judith Rippeth

Officers: Natasha Wade -Guest Technical Officer
Felicity Goldsbrough Litigation Lawyer
Rachel Jackson Principal Licensing Officer
Aaron Clarke Democratic Services Technical 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. Appeal against the refusal to grant a Private Hire Driver licence

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

The Sub-Committee decided on the balance of probabilities to **approve** the refusal of a Private Hire Driver licence to the appellant.

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 had not declared the conviction of battery on his application form.
- The appellant had not declared the Private Hire Driver licence that he held with a previous authority.
- The appellant did not accept that taking a customer's mobile phone is theft and tried to excuse the behaviour by comparing it to a security for the future payment of a fare.
- The appellant's oral evidence given to the Sub-Committee did not correlate with his written witness statement.
- The above points demonstrated a lack of honesty and the Sub-Committee decided that the appellant was not a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Driver licence.

The Meeting ended at 1.00 p.m.
