

From: Sam Embley [REDACTED]

Sent: 02 December 2024 18:50

To: Rackley, Shaun <Shaun.Rackley@torbay.gov.uk>; Lewis, Barbara <Barbara.Lewis@torbay.gov.uk>

Subject:

Dear Shaun Rackley,

Firstly, thank you for your email.

I am writing to you today to inform that I would like to move forward to the Committee Stage at their earliest convenience, regarding re- obtaining my Licensed Driver Badge.

I would like to start with the points in the first committee meeting.

My first point is regarding to my friend using my licensed vehicle.

I let my friend use my car to drive to Exeter to pick up his daughter.

I naively didn't realise that he wasn't permitted to drive it, even though I had taken the taxi signs off the vehicle, except the vehicle licence plate. Having read the taxi manual in depth, I saw where I had made an error in judgement. However, its noted that this was an error at the very beginning of my taxi career.

My second point regarding

The accusation that I had lied on my application in regards to how many points I had at the time. I still believe this is a false claim. I made my application with the help of [REDACTED], who was at the time [REDACTED]

When I made my application I had 6 points, that is what I declared and was true at the point of application. [REDACTED] is willing to provide a statement to that affect. The additional points that were added, I was unaware of as I had no fixed abode at the time. This was at the beginning of my taxi career. It maybe becoming apparent that I hadn't read the taxi manual as well as I should have, and that I bitterly regret. I've certainly learned my lesson in that respect.

My third point regarding the incident at Morrisons. I was going through an incredibly tough time in my life. At the time, I was extremely frustrated and anxious. I know that I came across rude and in reflection, I am embarrassed how I reacted. To reiterate, I was going through a hard time. However, at the time I felt like she was being awkward, but that doesn't excuse the way I dealt with the situation. I didn't swear, however I admit I didn't handle the situation well, I would say that either of us did.

Now I would like to address how I acted in the meeting.

I was already off work sick following a car accident whilst, on duty as a Taxi Driver.

My partner and son had both left me due to stresses of money. Further more, the impact of the accident had affected my mental state. I had entered the meeting in an anxious and depressive state. Admittedly, not the ideal mindset to be in before such an important meeting.

After spending the months leading up to the hearing in contact with you shaun, you made me feel like I had your support which lead me to believe me you were on my side, for which I was truly grateful. Especially at such a stressful time. when I attended the hearing it felt that I had been lead into a false sense of security.

I felt intimidated, I felt that I didn't have the mental energy to go through with the meeting and that there was nothing I could say or do. I should have spoke up and asked if I would be allowed to

compose myself. Instead, I acted irrationally and I felt like it was going one way and one way only, I felt like no matter what I had said, the out come was already decided, which was why I left so abruptly. I can only apologise.

What's changed since the hearing.

I have bought my own house, and reconnected with the mother of my son and we are now an amazing, loving and strong family unit.

I have been to the doctors to address my Mental Wellbeing, and have made huge strides in the right direction. With that in mind and following my accident I have had professional help and advice with how to deal stressful situations, and I now feel a much better person for it.

In summary, I believe everyone deserves a second chance.

It's clear to see the errors that were made at the beginning of my career, and I take full responsibility for that. I have learnt from them.

I have done many different jobs since, but taxiing gave me freedom not only financially, but also personally, it would allow me to spend time with my family. When I was working I did really well, I put the hours in. I was consistent with my school runs and worked the ranks when ever possible.

Thankyou for giving me the oppportunity to air my views on the last hearing.

Kindest regards.

Sam Embley.