



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF LICENSING (NON-STATUTORY) SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING

DECISION NOTICE

Date of Hearing:

Wednesday 29 May 2024

Sub-Committee Members:

Councillor Julia Huffer (Chairman)
Councillor Martin Goodearl
Councillor John Trapp
Councillor Kelli Pettitt
Councillor Gareth Wilson

Officers

Maggie Camp - Director (Legal Services)
Angela Tyrrell - Senior Legal Assistant
Stewart Broome - Senior Licensing Officer
Jane Webb - Senior Democratic Services Officer
Cameron Overton - Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Licence holder:

Mr David Ansell

Other Persons:

Miss Eloise Gracey

DECISION

The decision of the Licensing (Non-Statutory) Sub-Committee (in exercise of the powers delegated by East Cambridgeshire District Council as Licensing Authority) was to:

SUSPEND the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver licence held by Mr Ansell for a period of six weeks (non-immediate), with a requirement to complete a Blue Lamp Trust online taxi safeguarding and customer awareness course, the details of which to be provided by officers.

No action to be taken against the hackney carriage vehicle licence, private hire vehicle licence and private hire operator licence held by Mr Ansell.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching their decision, Members considered all the information contained in the Senior Licensing Officer's report, the submissions made by Mr Ansell and Miss Gracey, and the responses to the questions raised and additional clarification provided by the officers present.

Members concluded that Mr Ansell:

- Failed to act in a professional manner;

- Failed to treat a passenger with respect;
- Failed to keep his relationship with a passenger on an appropriate professional basis; and
- Allowed himself to become over friendly and unprofessional in the way in which he dealt with a passenger.

Furthermore, Members were of the view that Mr Ansell failed to consider the safety and well-being of his passenger as being paramount, and he failed to be aware of the importance of the use of appropriate language during this journey.

Members also duly noted the impact of Mr Ansell's behaviour on the passenger.

Members felt Mr Ansell's behaviour as described above, and documented in the hearing, fell below the standard expected of a fit and proper person and therefore, a six week non-immediate suspension of his joint hackney carriage and private hire driver licence was appropriate, on condition that before the end of the period of suspension, he undertakes and completes a Blue Lamp Trust safeguarding and customer awareness course.

Members did not consider there to be any failures in relation to Mr Ansell's private hire vehicle licence, hackney carriage vehicle licence or his private hire operator licence, and therefore, no action was taken against these licences.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL

There is a right of appeal against this decision. Notice must be given to the Clerk to the Cambridge Magistrates' Court, The Court House, Bridge Street, Peterborough PE1 1ED within 21 days of notification of the Licensing (Non-Statutory) Sub-Committee's decision. Email: cb-enquiries@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk