

MINUTES OF TAXI HEARING HELD AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, CHAMBER, PONTYPOOL

**Thursday, 9th August 2018
10.00am**

Panel members	Councillors: Dave Thomas (Chair), Norma Parish and Janet Jones.
Legal Officer	Justine Cass, Deputy Monitoring Officer & Solicitor (DMO&S)
Licensing Officers	Claire Howells, Senior Licensing Officer (SLO)
Senior Business Support Officer	Jacquelyn Tranter
Applicant	KLT
Others in attendance	JR (partner of KLT)

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the hearing and introductions were made.

2. APPLICATION FOR A NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE BY KLT

The SLO read the report to the Panel, drawing the Panel's attention to the application received and a conviction relevant to the application.

The Panel were required to review the information in the report and determine if they considered KLT to be a fit and proper person to be granted a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire driving licence.

The background, issues and findings of the report were read out and the relevant sections of the Council's policy on Administration and Regulation of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences particularly in relation violence to were highlighted.

The Panel had to determine which of the following actions should be taken:

- To grant the licence
- To not issue the licence
- To issue a probationary licence.

There were no additional comments or updates from the licensing officers.

The DMO&S invited KLT to present her case. KLT read out Appendix B of the report – Character Declaration. KLT was invited to make further comment in order to provide the Panel with any additional information that may be available.

KLT commented, in summary as follows:

- In hindsight, she would not have taken the children with her had she known what would happen;
- Her cousin was aware of the position and direction of a nearby CCTV

camera and had made sure it was on her back;

The DMO&S invited KLT to tell the Panel about her family background and personal circumstances. KLT responded as follows:

- KLT stated she is a single mum of 3 children aged 15,14 and 7;
- The youngest child had suffered with serious health problems and had undergone major heart and stomach surgery as a result KLT had finished work and was her daughter's primary carer until she started primary school;
- KLT now wished to help her partner with her business by supporting the driving contracts during school hours;
- When asked to explain her partner's business, KLT explained that her partner has her own business and she would provide driving support during school hours helping with contracts;

The DMO&S explained the procedure that the Panel would follow during deliberations and in making their decision. She invited questions from members and in summary the following points were noted:

- In response to Cllr Parish's question on employment, KLT explained that due to her conviction she was not able to gain employment with previous employers as she had worked in a hospital and caring in the community;
- The only evidence of injury following the incident was J's thumb;
- KLT is currently living in Upper Cwmbran area. At the time of the incident KLT was living in Rogerstone.

The DMO&S invited further comment, KLT stated that she had no further comments.

KLT, JR and the Licensing Officers left the Chamber.

DELIBERATIONS OF THE PANEL

The DMO&S reminded the Panel of the considerations to be made and the Council's policy in relation to the convictions.

Members were impressed by the way in which KLT had presented her case to the Panel. In summary members made the following comments:

- The conviction was just over one year ago, if the application was made at a later date this case may be viewed differently;
- KLT would be working with children which is concerning;
- Questions surrounding the incident, police involvement and conviction;
- KLT had been refused work as a carer and for same reasons we can't go against council policy;
- Conviction needs to be spent;

The three Panel members unanimously agreed that a licence should NOT be issued at this time.

Members commented that they sympathised with KLT's position but they were mindful of following the Council's policy. Further comment was made that KLT should apply in the future when the conviction has been spent.

DECISION OF THE PANEL

The Chair welcomed back KLT (and partner) and the Licensing Officers.

The DMO&S spoke on behalf of the Members stating that the Panel had considered the report and the representations from KLT and that she would read out their decision. She stated however, that following the meeting they would be sent a letter confirming the decision, which would contain more information.

The DMO&S read out the Panel's decision, that they agreed to NOT issue the licence.

Signed:

Date:

Councillor Dave Thomas, Chair of the Licensing Hearing

Minutes prepared by Jacquelyn Tranter, Senior Business Support Officer