

APPENDIX H

CONDITIONS OF LICENCE – PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS

- 1 The operator shall keep a register of all private hire vehicles which the operator operates containing the following information:
 - a. The make and type of vehicle.
 - b. The vehicle registration number.
 - c. The name and address of the owner of the vehicle.
 - d. The private hire licence number.

- 2 The operator shall keep a record of every booking of a private hire vehicle invited or accepted on behalf of the operator including:
 - a. The time and date of the hiring.
 - b. The name of the hirer.
 - c. The name of the driver.
 - d. The start and end points of the journey.
 - e. The fare paid.
 - f. The private hire licence number of the vehicle.

- 3 The register and records referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be kept in either paper format or electronically in a format which permits immediate inspection in response to a request made under section 56(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and in the case of records kept in an electronic format, must be capable of printed onto paper forthwith.

- 4 Records required by these conditions must be retained for at least one year.

5 Forthwith upon being requested to do so by any authorised officer of the council to provide a printed copy of any electronic records kept by the operator in accordance with these conditions.

6 The operator must notify the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal of the council in writing within 7 days of:

a. Any conviction, fixed penalty notice (save for in respect of civil parking fixed penalty notices which cannot result in the endorsement of points upon the driver's licence) or Police caution.

b. Any change of his or her residential address.

c. Any change of his or her business address.

d. Any additional addresses within or outside of the district from which the operator intends to carry on the business as a licensed private hire vehicle operator during the continuation of the licence.

7 The operator shall provide a prompt and efficient service to members of the public and in particular:

a. Ensure that unless delayed or prevented by some cause outside the control of the operator, vehicles attend appointments punctually.

b. Any premises to which the public has access for the purposes of booking or waiting are clean, adequately heated, adequately ventilated and well lit.

c. Ensure that any waiting area has adequate seating facilities.

8 The operator shall notify the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal of Uttlesford District Council of any complaints made against the operator or any driver used by the operator within two working days of receipt of the complaint.

Statement of Witness (S.9)

(Criminal Procedures Rules 2005, r27.1 (1);
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)

Statement of:

Graham

Johnson

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation:

Transport

Monitoring

Inspector Essex

County Council

This statement (consisting of ... pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything, which I know to be false or do not believe to be true

My job role is Transport Monitoring Inspector for Essex County Council I have carried out this work for over five years.

My duties include inspecting and monitoring of Essex County Council Contracts at Local Schools.

On the 27th of November at 8:20 a.m. I checked our contract SS2331. This was at Pinewood School Hoe lane Ware SG12 9PB..

This was a Black Vauxhall Zafira with Uttlesford PH plates 1063 Expiry 31/07/14. It was driven by a driver who called himself Mohammed Alam and gave his date of birth as the 25/06/74 but he had no actual Uttlesford I.D.

The Passenger Assistant in the back seat of the Zafira did have Id and was Patricia Cook Essex ID 16771 Expiry 31/05/2015 employed in the name of Car Service Travel.

Date the

Day of

9th

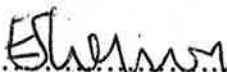
December

2013

Signature.....



Signature.....



Witnessed By.....



Matthew Chamberlain

From: Murray Hardy
Sent: 08 January 2014 09:40
To: Matthew Chamberlain
Subject: FW: RTA Chief Car Rentals

Matthew Still no accident report received. Breach of conditions eg 3day reporting regards Murray

From: Megan Ockenden [mailto:cst07@btconnect.com]
Sent: 08 January 2014 09:32
To: Murray Hardy
Subject: Re: RTA Chief Car Rentals

Morning

Date of accident 5th December, driver Mr J Lawson vehicle was stationary, vehicle black Zafira KN53ZSE

Kind Regards
Megan Ockenden
Car Service Travel Ltd
01279 731049
07803120136
cst07@btconnect.com

From: Murray Hardy
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 4:29 PM
To: Megan Ockenden
Subject: RTA Chief Car Rentals

Hi Megan I have been informed that the above are making an application on your behalf for a replacement vehicle the reason being that one of your vehicles has been involved in an RTA. I have no report from Car Service Travel that this is the case. Can you confirm if one of your vehicles was involved in an accident and who was the driver and what was the date of the accident regards Murray Hardy Licensing Officer

Person Interviewed: **Mohammed Soiful Alam**

* Before I start do you have a mobile phone with you?

Place of Interview: Council Offices Saffron Walden

Date of Interview: 24 January 2014

Time Commenced: 11:10

Time Concluded: 10:27

Duration of Interview: 17 minutes

Interviewing Officer(s): Matthew Chamberlain

Other Officer Present: Sonia Williams

Person Speaking	TEXT
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MC The time by my watch is now 11:10 hours it is Friday the 24th of January 2014 and we are in an interview room at the council offices Saffron Walden my name is Matthew Chamberlain I am the enforcement officer with Uttlesford district council the other person present in the room is

SW Sonia Williams I am the enforcement team leader for Uttlesford district council

MC Can you please state for the benefit of the tape your full name

MA Mr Mohammed Soiful Alam

MC Ok and just to spell can you spell the middle name please

MA Sorry

MC Spell the middle name

MA Soiful S O I F U L

SW Thank you

MC Thank you and your current home address

MA 18 Carters Mead

MC Yeah

MA It's in Harlow Essex

MC Thank you and your date of birth

MA 25th of June 1974

MC Thank you and your place of birth

MA It's in Bangladesh it's in Bangladesh

MC OK you have been asked to attend this interview today regarding a suspicion of an offence and that is of driving a private hire vehicle without a private hire drivers licence under the local government miscellaneous provisions act 1976 as this is a formal interview I must caution you before proceeding you do not have to say anything but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court anything you do say may be given in evidence do you understand that caution

MA Yeah

MC We have to explain your legal rights and they are you are not under arrest and are free to leave at any time you do not have to answer any of our questions you may seek legal advice if you wish to tell me and I will stop the interview immediately you also have the right for another adult to be present however they are for morale support only and may not answer on your behalf a copy of the code of practice which are the books on the machine there is available for you to consult and it contains the rules under these interviews are governed and a copy of this taped interview will be available for you to take away at the end should you so wish I notice you haven't got any legal representation with you today are you happy for the interview to carry on

MA Yeah

MC And this interview has been prepared in accordance with the police and criminal evidence act 1984 and conducted in accordance with the code of practice which sets down guidelines safeguards and protection for members of the public and just like to say before we go any further this I'll draw your attention to the fact this interview is being audibly recorded with this equipment on the table here and you will see that by the red light

MA Yeah

MC Yeah can you please confirm also that prior to the interview starting you were shown sealed tapes by my colleague and these were opened in your presence

MA Yes

MC Ok thank you I've got a few questions for you have you ever been a licensed driver with Uttlesford district council

MA Uttlesford

MC Yeah

MA Yeah I was yeah

MC OK and when did you stop

MA It was I think back in 2007 that's my guess

MC Ok what reason did you stop driving with Uttlesford

MA I I didn't drive for Uttlesford at all I obtained a licence that was a different reason might have been work I couldn't get suitable work

MC Right

MA So the licence expired

MC OK

MA I didn't renew it

MC Ok so you didn't have any work

MA No yeah

MC For a licence ok what's your current job

MA I'm a cabbie at Harlow

MC And so your licensed by Harlow Council

MA Yeah

MC Ok and are you self employed are you employed by anyone

MA Self employed yeah

MC Ok and how long have you been licensed at Harlow

MA It's been since 2006 or 7 that's my guess again

MC Ok ok do you know a company called Car Service Travel

MA Yeah

MC OK how do you know them

MA Various way my cousin introduced him yeah

MC OK whose him

MA Jim yeah

MC Right ok and so so you got introduced to them

MA Yeah that's how I know him

MC OK

MA Yeah just take that off

MC Yeah no that's fine so you met him that way so what context do you know him is it just you met him or anything else

MA Well I was I was doing some school jobs as well from my office

MC Yeah

MA So I mean taking some schools to in Hoddesdon as well

MC Ok

MA He was there so obviously you see someone every day

MC OK

MA So you remember their faces and stuff and yeah

MC Ok do you hold a private hire licence

MA I do yeah

MC Or a hackney carriage licence

MA No private hire

MC Ok is it a joint licence so do you have a dual licence

MA What do you mean

MC I mean have you got your badge with you today

MA Yeah yeah

MC Can I have a look at it all

MA Yeah yeah

MC OK just for the tape Mr Alam is showing me his badge and that's private driver 123 ok that's fine thank you so you've got have you got your own private hire vehicle with Harlow

MA Yeah

MC Ok ok so have you ever done any work for Car Service Travel

MA Only once or twice

MC OK

MA Yeah that's with my car

MC Ok

MA But

MC In your car

MA Yeah

MC Ok do you know where their head office is

MA No

MC Car Service Travel so when you met I mean so who's the man you met

MA Jim

MC Jim do you know his surname

MA No

MC Ok where did you meet him

MA As I said my cousin introduced him

MC Yeah

MA You know so

MC Was that by phone or did you meet

MA Phone yeah phone yeah it was over the phone

MC Oh right ok do know Patricia Cook at all

MA No

MC Ok have you ever driven Uttlesford private hire vehicle 1063 or 10 63 which is a black Vauxhall Zafira registration

MA Yeah

MC number

MA Yeah I did

MC How many times have you driven that

MA Just the one day when my car was broken

MC Ok you say it was broken in what way was it broken and when was that

MA Just on that particular day you know

MC On that particular day

MA Yeah

MC So what were you you were doing that I mean were you driving who was there anybody else in the vehicle

MA Yeah there was a lady from Harlow

MC OK

MA You know I needed to pick up

MC Yeah

MA And go to Stevenage

MC Ok

MA Just doing one job that he asked for to do that and I didn't have my car so yeah I'm free I'll do that

MC Was she an adult or was she

MA She was an adult yeah

MC Ok so you remember being do you remember being stopped on the 27th of November 2013

MA I can't I don't know the date but I knew that I was inspected by an officer and I couldn't show my badge because my badge was in my other car

MC Ok ok so you said you'd been stopped and we've got a witness statement from a transport monitoring inspector at Essex County Council and what they do is they carry out inspections of school contract work

MA Yeah

MC Ok so people doing school contracts and they go onto say my duties include inspecting and monitoring of Essex County Council contracts at local schools

MA Yeah

MC OK and on the 27th of November at 8.20 am I checked on contract SS2331 this was at Pinewood School Hay Lane Ware SG12 9PB this was a black Vauxhall Zafira with Uttlesford private hire plates 1063 expiry 31st of the 7th 2014 it was driven by a driver who called himself Mohammed Alam and gave his date of birth as the 25th of the 6th 1974 but he had no actual Uttlesford ID the passenger assistant in the back seat of the Zafira did have ID and was Patricia Cook Essex ID 16771 expiry 31st of the 5th 2015 employed in the name of Car Service Travel you don't remember this incident

MA I do yeah

MC You do

MA Yeah that's the one I was talking about yeah

MC Right but you just said you were transporting an adult this is a school contract

MA Yeah but I mean sorry I don't the lady was as you can say a a minder

MC Right

MA For a child

MC OK you were carrying children as well then

MA Yeah well we dropped it off

MC OK so where were you going to and from again sorry

MA From Stevenage to the Hay Lane School

MC OK so the school what's the name of the school again

MA ??? Hall

MC Right

MA No sorry no no no that's not Hale ?? Hall what's the school sorry it's just the other side of the roundabout just just it's going around in my

MC OK and what town was that in again

MA In the morning-ish about between quarter past eight and eight thirty

MC OK and what town

MA Sorry what town it comes under it's not Hoddesdon Ware definitely

MC Right ok this is priorwoods school in Ware you were stopped there so you remember being stopped and you remember obviously driving a an escort if you like

MA Yeah

MC So you were doing obviously a school contract here who asked you to do that school contract

MA Jim

MC Jim from Car Service Travel is that

MA Yeah yeah

MC Ok and this was the morning did he ask you to do it the afternoon return trip as well

MA Yeah I done the same

MC So you did two

MA In the same day yeah

MC So what I don't understand though is why he's asked you to do that job on this one day

MA It was because one of his drivers was sick

MC Right but you just told me you were driving this vehicle because your car was broken down

MA Yeah I was my ??????????? was off work so he just phoned around obviously and found me off work and wasn't doing anything so he just asked me if I can do the job for the day

MC OK are you aware of the legislation surrounding private hire vehicle driving

MA Not a lot probably

MC OK what vehicle are you driving now obviously you said your one is broken

MA Yeah

MC Is it repaired now or

MA Yeah well I've hired another one

MC You've hired another one

MA Yeah

MC OK and what's the registration number of that do you know

MA I don't know

MC Do you know what make and model it is

MA It's a Ford Ford Focus

MC Ford Focus ok and is that Harlow licensed or is it

MA Harlow licensed yeah

MC Harlow licenced ok what I am getting at though is to do a job like this you need all three licences in the same thing you're not licensed to drive an Uttlesford licence vehicle are you

MA Are you asking me if you are badged you can drive

MC Right

MA So yeah

MC But he's asked you that

MA Yeah

MC But obviously you're not licensed to drive this vehicle you're only licensed to drive Harlow licensed vehicles aren't you are you aware of that

MA Yeah

MC You are aware of that or you're saying now you're aware of it

MA I know with my badge I can drive Harlow

MC Ok

MA Definitely but I wasn't sure whether I cannot drive Uttlesford

MC Ok did you check with that before

MA I did ask

MC Who did you ask

MA Jim

MC Jim

MA Yeah

MC Ok did you check with Uttlesford district council

MA I did not no

MC OK how come you've never applied for a licence with Uttlesford district council since to carry on this job on this particular day or at other times

MA As I said I mean when I ask at you know if I'm badged within Essex County Council I can drive so but that's why I did otherwise obviously no and I

MC Were Essex County Council aware you were doing school contract work

MA Sorry say it again

MC Were Essex County Council aware you were doing school contract work

MA I think so I mean that's why as long as you are within your badge from the Essex County Council you can do this job so

MC Ok so you said there was a problem with your other vehicle what was the problem with it at all

MA I can't remember but it was for a couple of days it was in the garage so

MC Was it involved in an accident or was it broken down or

MA It's just normal procedure takes a few hours to repair it I can ??? but it was with the garage with the man who repair it

MC And what garage well was this reported to Harlow Council licensing's department

MA No you don't have to

MC No ok I'm not sure on your licence over there

MA No

MC Obviously there's a problem with the vehicle

MA No I was I mean I wasn't on that day I was off work I mean I know I can't use this car for my Harlow work I know that

MC OK

MA But I was in I did ask him then you know if my badge ??? work with this car he said yes and that's why I only work one afternoon

MC OK

MA I mean I've been driving for seven years I never you know had any ?? but I wasn't aware of this particular thing

MC OK so you so this took place on the 27th of November

MA Yeah

MC When did he ask you to do this

MA The night before just

MC The night before

MA Yeah just text me and said can you do it

MC He text you ok do you have any questions at this point Mrs Williams

SW I only have one this person you keep referring to as Jim do you know what his surname name is

MA I wish I know because I didn't know that you know I didn't know I needed to know that's why I never asked I've met him I know him you know his name Jim that's it so

SW Ok do you know what his position is within the company

MA He said he's a school contractor so

SW So you don't know if he's a manager or just another driver

MA He drives but

SW Right

MA But

SW Ok alright thanks

MC OK could you describe what this Jim looks like at all

MA Yeah big bloke

MC Yeah dark hair light hair glasses no glasses

MA He's got glasses yeah

MC Ok light skin dark skinned or a general description

MA White

MC Ok ok did and when you did this job were you paid first at all by this Jim

MA Yeah did pay yeah

MC Ok was that by cash by cheque by bank transfer

MA Yeah cash

MC Cash ok ok how much would he have paid you for that

MA I think about forty pound or something yeah

MC OK that's fine ok so just to recap you did your vehicle you had problems with it you weren't working that day this Jim text you asked you to do this job and you did it

MA Yeah

MC And in the morning and in the afternoon

MA That's right yeah

MC Ok I don't have any further questions for you do you have anything further you wish to ask or say or

MA No just say why what been through that's it

MC Ok

MA Straightforward

MC Ok obviously I've got to report back to my manager for this because it is I've got to report you for the offence

MA Sorry just a question

MC Yeah sure

MA Yeah it seems

MC Watch the microphone sorry

MA Are you saying that you know I mean I'm not allowed to drive Uttlesford ??? car at all

MC What an Uttlesford vehicle

MA Yeah that one I'd driven

MC Yeah

MA I can't

MC No

MA Right

MC You haven't got a licence to drive one

MA Right ok

SW Can I just just before you finish can I just ask you when you picked up the Zafira where did you collect it from

MA He dropped it off

SW He dropped the car off at your house

MA Yeah yeah

SW Right ok have you ever been round to the offices of

MA I don't know if he's running from home or I know you know I know his home address

SW Right ok and you don't know where that is

MA I don't know where his office you know probably I presume he rung from home probably but I heard he's got a garage or something which is ??? because he's just

SW Right do you know how many cars he runs

MA No I don't have any clue

SW No ok alright thanks that's thank you

MC So obviously I will report back to my manager for this and I'll tell you what will happen we can either take no further action we can offer you a council caution for the offence or there's a potential for a prosecution for the offence ok now how would you like to be notified next by phone by email by letter

MA You can email me yeah

MC Yeah what's your email address

MA Didn't write it down

MC It's m s Alam all in one 1 8 7

SW 1 8 7

MA Yeah

SW Yeah

MA At gmail dot com

SW Thank you ok thanks

MC Lovely if you've got nothing further to add I'm gonna stop the interview now and the time by my watch is 10:27 hours.

INTERVIEW ENDS

Person Interviewed: **James Lawson**

* Before I start do you have a mobile phone with you?

Place of Interview: Council Offices Saffron Walden

Date of Interview: 29 January 2014

Time Commenced: 11:41

Time Concluded: 12:00

Duration of Interview: 19 minutes

Interviewing Officer(s): Matthew Chamberlain

Other Officer Present: Sonia Williams

Person TEXT
Speaking

MC The time by my watch is now 11:41 hours it is Wednesday the 29th of January 2014 and we are in an interview room in the council offices in Saffron Walden my name is Matthew Chamberlain I am an enforcement officer with Uttlesford district council the other person present in the room is

SW Sonia Williams and I am the enforcement team leader for Uttlesford district council

MC Can you please state for the benefit of the tape your full name

JL James Lawson

MC And your current home address

JL 116 Sheering Lower Road Sawbridgeworth Herts Charlie Mike 21 9 Lima Hotel

MC Thank you very much and your date of birth

JL 9 11 60

MC And your place of birth

JL Harlow



MC Thank you you've been asked to attend this interview today regarding a suspicion of two offences that is of using an unlicensed driver to drive a private hire vehicle and failing to notify the council within 72 hours of an accident taking place as this is a formal interview I must caution you before proceeding you do not have to say anything but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court anything you do say may be given in evidence we have to explain your legal rights and they are you are not under arrest and are free to leave at any time you do not have to answer any of questions you may seek legal advice if you wish to tell me and I will stop the interview immediately you also have the right for another adult to be present however they are morale support only and may not answer on your behalf a copy of the code of practice which are the books on the machine there is available for you to consult and it contains the rules under which these interviews are governed and a copy of this taped interview will be available for you to take away at the end should you so wish I notice you haven't got any legal representation with you today are you happy for the interview to carry on

JL Yes

MC And this interview has been prepared in accordance with the police and criminal evidence act 1984 and conducted in accordance with the code of practice which sets down guidelines safeguards and protection for members of the public I'd like to draw your attention to the fact this interview is being audibly recorded with equipment on the tape and you can see this is done by the red light showing on the machine could you just confirm this

JL Yes

MC And can you also confirm that prior to the commencement of the interview you were shown sealed tapes which were opened in your presence

JL Yes

MC Thank you right I've got some questions for you today regarding these issues first of all are you known as Jim

JL Yes

MC Ok how long has Car Service Travel Limited been a private hire operator

JL Thirty years now

MC Thirty years and with this authority it's been

JL Two years

MC Two years and before that

JL Epping

MC Epping and why did you go from Epping to here

JL What to their office

MC Yeah

JL To get everything out the house the office is only two miles up the road from my home so it was the ideal place

MC Ok and what is your role at the company

JL Manager

MC Ok to your knowledge whose the director of the company

JL Sorry

MC To your knowledge who is the director of the company

JL My daughter Claire

MC Ok is there any other directors

JL No

MC Why did you resign your directorship

JL Personal reasons

MC Ok why did you if you resigned that obviously we've got the renewal licence for the operators

JL Yes

MC On December dated December the 12th

JL Yes

MC 13 sorry how come you signed that then the operator's licence

JL Well I just signed the paperwork because I'm the manager

MC So you've been given permission and and authority by

JL Yes yes

MC And your daughter

JL Yes yes

MC To do that and her name is is that Claire Lawson is that right

JL Yes

MC Ok ok and are Car Service Travel Limited familiar with their private hire conditions of licence

JL Yes

MC Ok where are you running the business from

JL 10 Heath View Pond Lane Hatfield Heath Bishop's Stortford Charlie Mike 22 7 Alfa Roma

MC And that's your operating address

JL Yes

MC OK what's your understanding of an operator's address

JL What do you mean understanding

MC Well

JL That's the office that's where the office is run from

MC OK

JL Where all the records are kept

MC OK so you where the bookings occur I visited the offices on the 6th of January 2014

JL Yes

MC I'm in the morning

JL Yeah

MC I'll tell you what time it was it was 13:08 hours how come the offices were shut I wasn't able to gain access

JL Well it's my office space we open 24 hours a day seven days a week

MC Well you've confirmed that you are aware of your conditions of licence and it says the register and records referred to in paragraph one and two above shall be kept in either paper format or electronically which permits immediate inspection in response to requests made under Section 56 3 local government act 76 and all records kept in an electronic format must be capable of being printed onto paper forthwith

JL Yes

MC So yes if I'm an authorised officer under that act and if I want to gain access it should be available for me to inspect so I'll ask again why they weren't open

JL Because we weren't there

MC Right where were you is there no office presence during the day I understand you may not be aware of another time

JL Yeah the office there is three days a week we're there for about an hour an hour and a half a day

MC Right

JL It could be in the morning it could be in the afternoon it could be in the evening

MC Right ok do you did your company well does Car Service Travel operate private hire vehicle 1063

JL Yes

MC OK do you know a Mr Mohammed

JL Yes

MC Soiful Alam

JL Yes

MC How do you know him

JL I know his cousin just know the family for quite a few years him I've known about a couple of months

MC OK and how did you meet him

JL Just from around playing football stuff like that

MC Ok

JL Met him through his cousin Jamal

MC Ok and does he work for you at all

JL No

MC Ok has he ever driven for you

JL Yes once

MC Ok when was that

JL November November time

MC Ok and did he drive a UDC licenced vehicle

JL Yes

MC Why did he drive that

JL Driver that normally drives that vehicle had a TIA that night so I was a driver down so I just asked Mohammed could he just drive this vehicle and get the children to school

MC Ok

JL Job done

MC So did did you take the vehicle to him did he pick up from you

JL I took the vehicle to him

MC So how come you couldn't do the job

JL Because I had another one to do

MC You had a school run as well

JL Yes

MC Ok are you aware if he is the licensed driver

JL Yes he licensed to Harlow

MC Ok has he got an Uttlesford licence

JL No

MC So if you're aware that he didn't have an Uttlesford licence why were you letting him drive an Uttlesford licensed

JL Because I was stuck to get the children into school and as long as the vehicle is licensed and the driver is licensed for Essex County Council and they got trackable records I know it's against your rules but I had to get that contract covered

MC Well it's not against our rules it's an offence under the legislation

JL Right

MC Ok it's an offence under section 46 so ok and that was on the 27th of November so you used him in the morning and afternoon

JL Yes

MC Ok did you make any contact to find a UDC licensed vehicle driver through any other company

JL Yeah I phoned twenty four seven cos they normally have an abundance of people but they didn't come back to me

MC Do you remember who you spoke to at Twenty Four Seven

JL No

MC Ok

JL I just phoned up the number and asked to speak to someone if they've got any spare drivers that I could use for the day but

MC Ok

JL No one came back to me and I was stuck then I was at the limit that I had to get this run done

MC Ok ok do you have any questions at this point Mrs Williams

SW No I don't thank you

MC Ok on the issue of the accident do you drive so you've obviously said you drive some of the vehicles

JL Yes

MC Whose Megan Ockenden and what's her role at the company

JL Megan Ockenden is my partner and she's also the manager she does all the paperwork invoicing any emails going backwards or forwards to licensing

MC Ok so your company is aware of the process for reporting vehicles that have been involved in an accident

JL Yes

MC Ok so I understand that particular vehicle private hire vehicle 1063 which is a Zafira was involved in an incident on the 5th of December 2013

JL Yes

MC Can you confirm who was driving the vehicle

JL It wasn't being driven it was parked up at the side of the road by the office in the compound

MC So it wasn't you driving

JL Well I drove the vehicle to the office

MC Yeah

JL But the vehicle wasn't being driven

MC OK and so what exactly happened

JL: A vehicle went into the back of it

MC Ok was did that person stop or

JL Yeah they stopped and swapped details and everything

MC Ok what was the damage to the vehicle how severe was it

JL Rear bumper that was it

MC Rear bumper ok broken lights anything like that

JL No

MC No ok

JL Tow bar took the impact of it so it just the way he hit it at an angle just greased the bumper

MC Ok

JL Hit the tow bar but no broken lights no windows gone nothing

MC And who are RTA Car Rentals

JL Who

MC RTA Car Rentals

JL RTA unless that's the hire company that ?? the vehicle in while another one went in for repair

MC Right ok we received information our licensing team did on the 7th of January licensing team emailed Miss Ockenden to make that RTA Chief Car Rentals had made an application on your behalf for a replacement vehicle

JL that's rightyes

MC For the reason being it had been involved in an RTA

JL Yes

MC They've had no report incident from yourselves

JL No it was probably my fault because trying to get it all sorted out still running the contracts just completely forgot all about it just slipped my mind I was more interested trying to get the vehicle sorted out

MC Ok so

JL It's not deliberate it was you know it just slipped my mind we're all human I mean we all make mistakes

MC Ok

JL You know

MC Ok but this was happened on the 5th of December

JL Yes

MC Now licensing chased you up on the 7th of January now Megan Ockenden did get back to them on the 8th of January

JL Only because I told because I told her to email

MC OK and it said the date was the accident there's an email here to confirm it was the 5th of December

JL That's right

MC The driver was Mr Lawson the vehicle was stationery and it's the black Zafira

JL Yes

MC From my understanding talking to licensing today we still haven't received an accident report form why not

JL Well where do we get the accident report form from we sent an email over saying what had happened

MC Right but the legislation says must be within 72 hours

JL Right well as I said

MC Ok

JL Trying to sort all that out

MC this is

JL Get the vehicle repaired and the insurance details sorted out

MC This is over two months on coming up three months on and a we had to chase you and we were only notified through a third party

JL Yes

MC and b we've still had no accident report form now you can get one off licensing you've told me that you are having the business for 30 years I would expect a company with this experience to know this

JL Yeah we don't have many accidents very rarely do we have accidents this was the first accident this was the first one in bloody hell god knows quite a few years

MC Right ok but are you aware that you should be reporting these accidents

JL Yeah we're aware yeah I'm to blame and I apologise for it so it's my stupidity

MC Ok and do you have questions at this point

SW Just one or two getting back to the the issue with using Mr Alam as a driver at the time was Miss Lawson aware that as a director that you were struggling to find someone to

JL No not at the time no she wasn't I made her aware once I I saw her in the afternoon she wasn't happy but she was more glad that the contract did run and the children got to school

SW Right ok what level of involvement does she have in the company as a director does she actually work for the company on a daily basis

JL She does she works about three hours a day for the business

SW Right

JL And she does her other job in the afternoons

SW Ok and going onto the accident that had happened was she aware of the accident at the time or

JL Yes

SW And did she say anything about having to get the accident details reported through to the council

JL No she didn't

SW No ok and why was that was that because you think maybe she was unaware or did she leave it to you as a manager to deal with the day to day running

JL Leave leave it to me as a manager for the day to day running

SW Right

JL Yeah yeah that's all I can answer is

SW Ok I understand thank you that's all that I've got to ask Matthew thank you

MC What I'll do is I'll just read for your benefit is the witness statement from the school inspector that stopped the vehicle and it says his job role is transport monitoring inspector for Essex county council and he's carried out this job for over five years his duties include inspecting and monitoring of Essex county council contracts for local schools on the 27th of November at 8.20 am I checked our school contract SS2331 this was at Pinewood School Hoe Lane Ware there was a black Vauxhall Zafira with Uttlesford PH plates 1063 it was driven by a driver who called himself Mohammed Alam and gave his birth date of birth as 25th of June 1974 but had no actual ID the passenger assistant in the back seat of the Zafira did have ID and was Patricia Cook and she was employed in the name of Car Service Travel now you said obviously you tried to you tried to you were fulfilling your contract had you notified

Essex county council that you had been doing this using an unlicensed driver

JL No

MC Ok and you said you notified Miss Lawson in the afternoon when in the afternoon did you notify her

JL About half past one quarter to two two o'clockish timeish

MC So she would have been aware that the contract that Mr Alam was gonna do the job in the afternoon

JL Yes

MC And she obviously committed that as well

JL She wasn't happy but ?????? contract covered and get the children home

MC OK and was Mr Alam paid for this work at all

JL No

MC He wasn't

JL No

MC Ok is there any reason why he would tell us he was paid

JL He was paid

MC Yeah

JL No I haven't paid him

MC Has the company paid him to your knowledge

JL No

MC Ok ok do you have any more questions at this point

SW I don't thank you

MC Ok I don't have any more questions at this point what I'll do Mr Lawson is explain what will happen next obviously there's there's two possible issues here and I've got to speak to our legal officer to deal with it now it could be we've got a licensing policy that you were consulted on last year as being implemented regarding the private hire and hackney carriage trade and it says when an offence is carried out normally a

sanction is imposed and that will be either issuing a council issued caution or a prosecution for the offence obviously I can notify you how would be the best way to contact you to notify you

JL By email or by phone

MC I don't have your phone number is it possible I can just take your phone number

JL Yeah it's 0 7 8 0 3

MC Yeah

JL 1 2 0

MC Yeah

JL 1 3 5

MC And your email address is

JL It's all lower case it's c s t

MC Yeah

JL 07

MC Yeah

JL At bt connect dot com

MC Ok ok so obviously yeah as I say caution or prosecution obviously that it would mean that if you receive one of those it's more than likely an appearance in front of the committee

JL Yes

MC Licensing Committee would happen for them to determine whether your licence should be retained or not ok have you got anything further you want to add or say at this point

JL No what do you mean licence operator's licence or driver's licence

MC Driver's operator's licence definitely

JL What to take away

MC Well to review

JL Yeah

MC Whether to suspend or revoke possibly you're your driver's licence if you commit the offence of a breach of condition regarding the accident because I'm not sure if you've committed previous breaches before

JL Yeah I have done December

MC Ok

JL I had points put on my licence for speeding

MC Ok ok so yeah it could be a review of that licence as well so have you got any other questions or comments you wanted to

JL No not really no

MC Did you want to take a copy of the tape with you at the end

JL Yes please yes

MC Yeah ok the time by my watch is now 12:00 hours I'm going to stop the tape.

INTERVIEW ENDS