



(CJ Act 1967 S.9; MCA1980 SS5A(3)(A) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)
RESTRICTED- For Council and prosecution only

STATEMENT OF: Kyran O'NEILL

DATED: 5th January 2024

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Witness Statement

Age : Over 18

Occupation of witness: Licensing Enforcement Officer

This statement (consisting of 2 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.

Signature:

Date:

I am Kyran O'NEILL, a Licensing Enforcement Officer employed by Southampton City Council. As a part of my duties, I conduct investigations into complaints and compliance failures relating to the Taxi and Private Hire trades and enforce the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 as appropriate when dealing with these matters. This also includes conducting regular visits to private hire operators to ensure that they are operating in a manner which is compliant with the legislation and the conditions on their licence.

In April 2021 I conducted one such visit to the offices of Cab My Ride Limited at Arena Business Centre, Threefield Lane, Southampton, SO14 3LP, along with my colleague Russell BONIFACE who is also a Licensing Enforcement Officer.

Myself and Russell were greeted by Mr Arjan SAHOTA, a Company Director at Cab My Ride Limited, and as far as I was aware, the general manager of the operator 'Cab My Ride'. During the visit, Mr SAHOTA showed myself and Russell the new computer systems which were being used by the operator. This included a demonstration on how records were kept in relation to licensed drivers and vehicles. Mr SAHOTA showed us that the expiry dates on licences and insurance documents were linked to the system, allowing the operator to easily monitor large quantities of licensed drivers and vehicles. Mr SAHOTA explained that if a licence, insurance document, or similar authorisation was due to expire, the system would automatically send a message to the licence-holder to remind them to upload updated

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documentation. Mr SAHOTA explained that if this was not done before the expiry date, the licence-holder would be denied access to the online application-based system which allows them to accept jobs/fares, meaning in effect that they would not be able to work until they had provided correct and valid documentation of renewed licences, insurance or similar authorisation.

Myself and Russell were satisfied that the operator was using robust systems which would, in most situations, prevent work being given by the operator to unlicensed drivers or vehicles.

On 9th September 2021, myself and Russell BONIFACE visited the same office as above to speak with Arjan SAHOTA again, in relation to Cab My Ride Limited. Mr SAHOTA demonstrated to myself and Russell that they were still using the same systems as previously inspected. Therefore, we were satisfied that the operator was still using sufficiently robust systems.

On 23rd March 2022, myself and Russell BONIFACE visited the same office as above to speak with Arjan SAHOTA again, in relation to Cab My Ride Limited. Mr SAHOTA demonstrated to myself and Russell that they were still using the same systems as previously inspected. Therefore, we were satisfied that the operator was still using sufficiently robust systems. There was further discussion on this occasion about forwarding any potentially licence-impacting complaints about drivers and vehicles to the Licensing team at Southampton City Council. Mr SAHOTA agreed that any complaints made by customers relating to behaviour of drivers could be forwarded to the Licensing team at Southampton City Council.

To date I have had no further involvement in such inspections of Cab My Ride Limited.

Signature..... Date.....