

**LICENSING COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHEET**  
**21 February 2024**

**TAXI DRIVER LICENCE 0674**

**LICENCE HOLDER: William Cameron**

**DESCRIPTION**

- Licence held since 28/04/2003
- Current licence granted 26/09/2022 on renewal
- Expiry 31/07/2025

A complaint was received on 02/08/2023 from Burnett & Reid, solicitors on behalf of one of their clients, who is 71, and housebound and has recently lost her husband.

The complaint states that during her husband's illness their client and her husband befriended Mr Cameron (taxi driver) who would run errands for them, including withdrawing money at their request from an ATM.

They also loaned Mr Cameron money during this time.

However, it appears that whilst withdrawing authorised monies, Mr Cameron also withdrew additional funds (approx. £8000) without the knowledge or authority of Burnett & Reid's clients. When challenged, Mr Cameron admitted this and agreed to repay the money but only repaid a limited amount.

At that point Burnett & Reid's client reported the matter to Police Scotland and also came to a formal legal agreement with Mr Cameron for the monies to be repaid in full by instalments. With that in mind no action was taken by Police Scotland.

Again, Mr Cameron failed to adhere to this agreement and the matter was passed to Sheriff officers who served a Charge for Payment on Mr Cameron for £7400 plus costs. Apparently, this has not provoked any response or payment from Mr Cameron.

Whilst this activity does not itself relate to Mr Cameron's taxi driver licence, Burnett & Reid are of the opinion that Mr Cameron's behaviour means that he cannot be considered a fit and proper person to hold a licence issued by this authority.

Consideration of this complaint was deferred from the September 6 2023 and again from 12 December 2023, to allow Mr Cameron to seek legal advice for the complaint made against him.

## CONSULTEES

N/A

## OBJECTIONS/REPRESENTATIONS

- Licensing

## COMMITTEE GUIDELINES/POLICY

N/A

## GROUND FOR SUSPENSION/REVOCATION

A licensing authority may, whether upon a complaint made to them or not, suspend or revoke a licence in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.

A licensing authority may order the suspension or revocation of a licence if in their opinion—

- (a) the holder of the licence or, where the holder is not a natural person, any director of it or partner in it or any other person responsible for its management, is not or is no longer a fit and proper person to hold the licence;
- (b) the activity to which the licence relates is being managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the licence holder, who would have been refused the grant or renewal of the licence under paragraph 5(3) above;
- (c) the carrying on of the activity to which the licence relates has caused, is causing or is likely to cause undue public nuisance or a threat to public order or public safety;
- (d) a condition of the licence has been contravened.

In considering whether to suspend or revoke a licence the licensing authority may—

- (a) have regard to—
  - (i) any misconduct on the part of the holder of the licence, whether or not constituting a breach of any provision of Part I or II of this Act or this Schedule, which in the opinion of the authority has a bearing on his fitness to hold a licence;
  - (ii) where the licence relates to an activity consisting of or including the use of premises or a vehicle or vessel, any misconduct on the part of persons frequenting or using the premises, vehicle or vessel occurring there or any misconduct in the immediate vicinity of the premises, vehicle or vessel which is attributable to those persons;
- (b) make such reasonable inquiries as they think fit and, subject to sub-paragraph (5) below, include the results of their inquiries in the matters to which they have regard in such consideration.

## COMPLAINT

**From:** Alasdair Taylor <alasdair.taylor@burnett-reid.co.uk>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 2:22 PM

**To:** CivicCompliance <CivicCompliance@aberdeencity.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Subject

Dear Sirs,

### Complaint against Taxi Driver, William Cameron

We refer to our recent email exchange with Mr McKane. We confirm that we are instructed by Mrs [REDACTED] to submit a formal complaint regarding taxi driver, William Cameron, which our client would wish to have considered by the relevant Licensing Committee.

By way of background, we would advise that our client is 71 years old. In 2021, Mrs [REDACTED] spent much of the year caring for her husband, [REDACTED], up until his death in August. The two of them lived together in [REDACTED]. While Mrs [REDACTED] was not housebound, due to the need to care for her husband, she rarely left the house. Over this period, she and her husband were befriended by William Cameron, a taxi driver, who would regularly run errands for them, which included going to the ATM to withdraw money for her.

Mr Cameron was facing financial difficulties during this period and the [REDACTED] agreed to lend money to him to help him out. Clearly, that was simply a matter between the [REDACTED] and Mr Cameron and is, of itself, of no great import. After Mr [REDACTED] death, however, it became apparent that, when taking out money for Mrs [REDACTED], Mr Cameron had also been withdrawing cash for his own use. After being challenged on this, Mr Cameron admitted what he had done and agreed to repay the money but only did so to a limited extent.

Although Mrs [REDACTED], with the assistance of her Attorney and sister-in-law, [REDACTED], did report the matter to the Police, her preference was to try to reach an agreement with Mr Cameron whereby the money would be repaid with no further consequences. We were instructed to write to Mr Cameron to propose that a formal agreement be entered into, setting out a repayment schedule for an agreed amount. After some discussion, the parties entered into a Minute of Agreement on 8 June 2022 whereby Mr Cameron was going to repay the sum of £8000 at the rate of £100 per week. It will come as no surprise to be informed that he failed to keep up the payments. Having registered the Minute of Agreement we then arranged for Sheriff Officers to serve a Charge for Payment on him seeking payment of the balance due of £7400 together with certain costs. Unfortunately, that has also failed to provoke a response.

Our client has sought to resolve matters with Mr Cameron on a commercial basis that would not have impacted on his profession. Insofar as he has failed to take advantage of the opportunity given to him,

and due to our client's concerns that she may not be the only individual of whom he has taken advantage, she considers it appropriate that Mr Cameron's actions be brought to the attention of the Licensing Authority for consideration when assessing whether or not he is a fit and proper person to hold a taxi licence. We confirm that the matter has been brought once again to the attention of the Police but, perhaps surprisingly, they have declined to take further action. We presume, however, that the Police can, if required, confirm to the Licensing Authority that there have been both recent and previous discussions between either Mrs [redacted] or Mrs [redacted] and the Police about this matter, in the event that the Licensing Committee considers that to be a relevant consideration.

If there are any points that require clarification, then please contact the writer. As she is a vulnerable adult, we are reluctant at this stage to disclose Mrs [redacted] current address. If required however, we will provide that information. Her Attorney, Mrs Alison Mutch, is however happy to be contacted if required. You will note that she is copied in on this email. She resides at [redacted].

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Alasdair I Taylor

Senior Associate

## DRIVER RESPONSE

I did not take any money without permission

Sent from my iPhone