

LICENSING COMMITTEE INFORMATION SHEET

24 APRIL 2024

TYPE OF APPLICATION: Exemption from policy – Street Knowledge

APPLICANT : Sami Benmouhoub

INFORMATION NOTE

Mr Benmouhoub has held a Taxi Driver Licence from 04/01/2017 until 03/01/2024. There is no evidence to suggest that a renewal application was received from Mr Benmouhoub.

Mr Benmouhoub therefore has to re-apply for the grant of a new taxi driver licence. Under Licensing Committee policy, all intended applicants for a Taxi Driver Licence must pass the street knowledge test before a grant of taxi driver licence can be submitted.

Mr Benmouhoub is seeking exemption from this policy. The exemption request is detailed in the email from Mr Benmouhoub, dated 26/02/2024.

DESCRIPTION

Street Knowledge Exemption

CONSULTEES

- N/A

OBJECTIONS/REPRESENTATIONS

Legal

COMMITTEE GUIDELINES/POLICY

Licensing Committee policy states that before any new grant application for a Taxi Driver Licence can be submitted the applicant must have passed the street knowledge test.

REQUEST

I am writing in reply to your later dated 20th February 2024, informing that I was given ample time to complete my application but failed and thus asking me to make a new application with an option to apply for exception from the street knowledge test.

I sincerely apologise for my inability to complete my application within the stipulated time - this was not deliberate. I sent in proof to show that my reply to you was left in my draft outbox. I had to seek help to understand how these things work but by the time I got a reply my ability to renew had expired. (Please see my email correspondences with Mr. David M. and the licensing teams email)

Moving forward from this, considering that I can be exempted from the street knowledge test, I will like to put forward an application to be excepted based on the following reason:

1. I was eligible to renew but for the unfortunate circumstance of my emails not being sent and was lodged in my outbox + draft folder. I informed you of the incidence and sent screen shot on my email to David. I also sent the code (HMRC Tax Code and Right to Work) which you asked me to resend and I did. However, the processing time had lapsed.
2. I have been driving taxi in Aberdeen for about 8 years and have held a valid taxi license in this period. In this period I have never been summoned before the panel based on customer complaint. This will mean that I have demonstrate high professionalism on my job and I have practical knowledge of the city without a glitch. I have worked continuously during this 8year period including the Covid time.
3. I am now fully aware of what the re- application process involves. I am committed to making sure that if this exception is accepted. I will make fresh application and provide all the documents required in 24hrs.
4. If this application for an exception is rejected it will have very dire consequences for me and my whole family
 - First problem is that taking this exam will add significant time to my waiting time to acquire a license to enable me work.
 - 2ndly if the waiting is increased it means I cannot be a provider for your family.
 - This whole issue is coursing me depression, as soon as I can complete this process, I will significantly have control over my life.

I want to use this opportunity to please ask the Aberdeen city council to please dispense justice with mercy considering that my actions where not deliberate but rather a result of series of unfortunate events. I am committed to maintaining my professionalism and keeping an eye on my license to ensure that renews when necessary in the future.

I appreciate your time in processing my request and look forward to your feedback.

SAMI BENMOUHOU