

Report of the Chairman of the Licensing Committee

There have been no meetings of the Licensing Committee since the last Council meeting but I wish to inform the Council of a recent success with securing the conviction of a former taxi driver. He not only took six passengers when his vehicle was licensed to take five, thus invalidating his insurance, but grossly overcharged those six people who were vulnerable adults.

Firoz Mohammed was convicted at Staines Magistrates Court on 3 February after pleading not guilty, saying that he could not remember the journey despite the witness having confronted him the day after.

Mr Mohammed had charged the six adults between £10 and £15 each for a journey that started at Staines railway station and ended in Shepperton. A total of 14 charges were brought.

Mr Mohammed was found guilty of all charges. He was given six points on his licence and fined £180 for having no insurance, £650 for breaching taxi licensing bye-laws, a victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £1,000. He also had his Spelthorne hackney carriage licence revoked following the offences.

I am very pleased with this outcome and would particularly like to thank the witness, without whose clear evidence this case would not have been able to proceed. Mr Mohammed took advantage of vulnerable adults by charging them an extortionate amount for a journey of just a few miles. He also put them at risk as his insurance was invalidated. The Council takes this type of dishonest behaviour very seriously and I hope the outcome of this case serves as a deterrent to others.

Councillor Robin Sider
Chairman of Licensing Committee

23 February 2017