



## **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (TAXIS)**

**Determination of action to be taken  
following investigation of complaints  
concerning a private hire driver**

### **Decision Record**

**DATE OF HEARING:** 12th October, 2023

**MEMBERS SITTING:** Cllrs P.J. Cullum, Christine Guinness and  
S. Trussler

## DECISION

The decision of the Sub-Committee, on the balance of probabilities, was that Mr Hopcroft was not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence. Therefore, the decision was to revoke Mr Hopcroft's private hire driver's licence with immediate effect.

## REASONS

The Sub-Committee's decision was made in accordance with the provisions of Section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Rushmoor Borough Council's Taxi Licensing Policy, the Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards (dated 25 November 2022) and the Department of Transport's Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance.

The Sub-Committee listened carefully to the representations of the Rushmoor Borough Council Licensing Officer, to the representations from the Licence Holder, Mr Andrew Hopcroft, and the written evidence presented to it at the hearing.

Each member of the Sub-committee had also read and considered the late-arriving material from the Licence Holder's pharmacist.

The Sub-Committee tried to strike a fair balance between the interests of Mr Hopcroft and the concerns of the Licensing Officer, but its overriding consideration was the safety of the public.

The Sub-Committee noted that, in interview, the Licence Holder, Mr Hopcroft, was asked: 'If he heard of a taxi driver behaving exactly the same way as he had behaved, would he allow any of his family members to be carried by that person in their taxi?' His reply was "No".

In answer to a Councillor's question during the hearing, he agreed that sometimes he feels that he should not be driving a private hire vehicle. He also said that sometimes he would spend the day driving for reward, despite his Buprenorphine patches causing him dizziness to the extent that he did not feel physically well enough to drive, on one occasion being sick in a bush.