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18 April 2011

Taxi cameras – appeal against licence condition

On 24th November 2010 Mr. K. May appealed to the Southampton Magistrates' Court against Southampton City Council's imposition of a condition requiring the installation of a taxi camera in one of his licensed hackney carriages.

The matter was heard in the Southampton Magistrates' Court before District Judge Callaway on 23rd March 2011 and his judgment was issued on 15th April 2011. The Magistrates' Court allowed Mr. May's appeal, but, at a subsequent hearing on 18th April 2011, declined to make any order for costs, thus both parties will pay their own costs in dealing with this matter. The City Council's costs will be paid from the taxi and private hire licensing account which is funded by taxi and private hire licence fees.

On legal advice, the City Council is in the process of appealing the Magistrates' Court's decision. The appeal will now be heard in the Crown Court later this year. In the meanwhile and in light of the ongoing appeal both the Council's policy and licence conditions remain as previously implemented - licensed vehicles are still required to have approved taxi camera systems fitted and maintained.

Solicitor to the Council

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