# Woman seriously injured after falling from pick-up truck driven by Forbes of Kingennie son



A woman suffered serious injuries after falling from the back of a pick-up truck driven carelessly by Alistair Forbes, the son of the owner of Forbes of Kingennie resort. This incident unfolded late on the night of November 29 as a group of friends made their way back from the resort's bar to their lodges. According to the details presented in Forfar Sheriff Court, Forbes was transporting his friends in the exposed rear of his Volkswagen Amarok when Emily Mitchell lost her grip and fell onto the tarmac.

The fall resulted in Mitchell fracturing her skull and experiencing temporary unconsciousness, lasting about four minutes. Although she was swiftly taken to Ninewells Hospital, where further evaluations were made, she did not require surgery and was expected to recover fully within a month. Forbes admitted to causing her serious injury through careless driving, ultimately pleading guilty to a lesser charge of driving carelessly rather than the originally pursued charge of dangerous driving.

As the court heard, Forbes had been driving at speeds of up to 20 mph with three friends in the back of the truck when the incident occurred. The prosecutor, Alan Bell, described a scenario where, as the vehicle accelerated on a single-track road, Mitchell began to lose her grip before falling out of the moving vehicle. This alarming incident raises questions about the safety measures regarding passenger transport in open vehicles, especially in recreational settings.

In a bid to mitigate the repercussions of the incident, Forbes’ legal representative, Mark McGuire, highlighted his remorse and the psychological impact following the accident. Forbes was described as having experienced anxiety and distress since the event, illustrating the often-overlooked emotional consequences of careless behaviour on the road. The Sheriff acknowledged these sentiments, noting Forbes’ otherwise responsible character and the nature of the incident as an unfortunate lapse of judgment.

The court ultimately decided on a one-year driving ban and a total fine of £1,275 for Forbes. In arriving at this decision, Sheriff Derek Reekie commented on the low level of culpability exhibited during the incident, taking into consideration the absence of any malicious intent and the fact that Mitchell voluntarily chose to ride in the back.

Although law enforcement and courts strive to hold individuals accountable for driving offences, this case reflects a broader issue concerning the safety of passengers in open-back vehicles. Such cases often provoke discussions about regulatory measures to enhance safety in recreational settings, where the temptation for risky behaviours can lead to severe repercussions.

The aftermath of this incident indicates a fortunate recovery for Mitchell, who expressed no resentment towards Forbes, a testament to their continued friendship post-incident. In discussions surrounding carelessness in driving offences, the emotional toll on both the perpetrator and victim is an essential narrative that frequently remains in the background but deserves recognition in the context of road safety.

As the legal repercussions for Forbes unfold, the community at Forbes of Kingennie might also reconsider safety protocols to prevent such incidents from recurring, reinforcing the principle that recreational enjoyment should not come at the expense of safety.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
2. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 7
3. Paragraph 1

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5246637/woman-cracked-skull-fall-forbes-kingennie-pick-up/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-39152363> - A double-decker bus driver, Alistair Forbes, was fined £400 and banned from driving for three months after colliding with pedestrian Keira Duff in Broughty Ferry. The incident occurred on April 6, 2016, when Forbes drove through a red light, hitting Duff moments after she stepped off the kerb. Initially charged with dangerous driving causing serious injury, Forbes pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of careless driving. The court was informed that Duff, 20, sustained injuries but made a full recovery. Forbes, 58, was no longer employed by Stagecoach at the time of the incident.
3. <https://www.pa.web.scotcourts.gov.uk/courts-and-tribunals/courts-tribunals-and-office-locations/find-us/forfar-sheriff-court-and-justice-of-the-peace-court/> - Forfar Sheriff Court, located at Market Street, Forfar, DD8 3LA, is a Scottish court handling various legal proceedings. The court building, established in 1871, features a notable 'Hammer-Beam' roof in court one. Contact details include phone: 01307 462186, email: forfar@scotcourts.gov.uk. The court is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 16:00, with specific closures on certain Thursdays. For urgent matters during closures, contact Dundee Sheriff Court at 01382 229961 or dundee@scotcourts.gov.uk.
4. <https://victimsupport.scot/get-support/find-a-service/northeast/forfar-sheriff-court/> - Victim Support Scotland offers assistance to individuals involved in legal proceedings at Forfar Sheriff Court. Located at Market Street, Forfar, DD8 3LA, the court is accessible via public transport, with a large public car park behind the council buildings next to the court. The court's contact number is 01307 461385, and the email is forfar@scotcourts.gov.uk. A virtual tour of the court is available on the Victim Support Scotland website.
5. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/tag/forfar-sheriff-court/> - The Press and Journal provides coverage of various cases and events related to Forfar Sheriff Court. Recent articles include topics such as a Stonehaven pensioner knocking down a girl at a lollipop crossing, an Aberdeen van driver’s A90 road rage incident caught on camera, and a banned drink-driver’s Portsoy road trip leading to a 105mph police chase ending in a potato field. The coverage offers insights into the court's proceedings and the nature of cases handled.
6. <https://www.dunfermlinepress.com/news/18094243.dunfermline-man-court-catalogue-driving-offences/> - Alistair Stewart, 23, appeared at Dunfermline Sheriff Court after admitting a series of driving offences, including driving while disqualified and unfit due to drink or drugs. The offences occurred in Dunfermline, where Stewart collided with a stationary vehicle, drove off the road, and hit a traffic sign. He also failed to provide a blood specimen at Dunfermline police station. Sheriff Craig McSherry deferred sentencing until January 15, imposing a temporary driving ban and a home curfew from 7pm-7am.
7. <https://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/crime/drink-driver-who-hit-two-cars-on-leslie-high-street-faces-court-3120133> - Grant Forbes, 26, admitted to driving without due care and attention, failing to maintain a proper lookout, and striking two vehicles on Leslie High Street, Fife, while under the influence of alcohol. The incident occurred on August 16, 2020. Forbes appeared before Sheriff James Williamson at Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court, where sentencing was deferred until March 29, 2021, and he was disqualified from driving in the meantime. The legal limit for alcohol in breath is 22 micrograms per 100 millilitres, and Forbes' breath alcohol content was 35 micrograms.