# Welshpool taxi driver fined but avoids ban despite reckless driving and pedestrian danger



A recent case in Welshpool has highlighted the serious consequences of reckless driving, particularly when it involves professional drivers. Keith Bonner, a 57-year-old taxi driver, narrowly escaped a driving ban after being found guilty of driving without due care and attention. This incident unfolded on March 20th of last year, raising critical concerns about road safety and professional conduct behind the wheel.

According to court proceedings, Bonner was observed by PC Hendleman reversing from Parker's Place into oncoming traffic on Salop Road. The situation escalated when Bonner failed to stop for an elderly pedestrian using a zebra crossing, forcing the man to jump back onto the pavement to avoid potential harm. The court noted that this reckless behaviour not only endangered the pedestrian but also undermined Bonner’s responsibilities as a licensed taxi driver.

Despite his protests and claims of innocence, Bonner was found guilty. Prosecutor Suzanne Cartwright laid out the case against him, emphasising that the severity of the situation was intensified by Bonner’s role as a taxi driver, responsible for the safety of his passengers and pedestrians alike. The magistrates highlighted that Bonner already had three penalty points on his licence for previous speeding offences, spreading further concerns about his driving history.

Reflecting on the case, Chair of the magistrates' bench, Anthony Jackson, asserted, “You endangered a pedestrian… during a busy time of the day in Welshpool.” The bench did, however, show leniency, considering Bonner's ongoing medical issues that he claimed would restrict his access to essential healthcare if he were to lose his driving privileges altogether. He was subsequently fined £902, which included court costs and a victim surcharge, leaving him with the heavy burden of an appeal he intends to pursue.

Contrasting Bonner’s case is a recent incident in Inverness, where a taxi driver successfully avoided a head-on collision with a careless driver, demonstrating the varying levels of competence and responsibility among professional drivers. Arkadiusz Byczkowski, who had acted recklessly, received a significant fine and penalty points after causing injuries during the ordeal. Instances like these serve as reminders of the high stakes involved in driving, especially for those whose professions rely heavily on their ability to navigate safely on the roads.

In another concerning case from Cardiff, 77-year-old Wayne Humphreys faced prosecution after nearly colliding with a cyclist due to insufficient space while overtaking. His hefty fine of £1,152 and four penalty points sparked outrage, highlighting a growing frustration among drivers over perceived inconsistencies in penalties.

The importance of maintaining high driving standards cannot be overstated, particularly for those in the transport industry whose actions hold implications for public safety. As Bonner awaits the outcome of his appeal, his case serves as a stark reminder of the responsibility that comes with being behind the wheel. Road safety remains a pressing concern, necessitating continued vigilance and strict enforcement of driving regulations, especially for professional drivers charged with protecting the public.

As this narrative unfolds in Welshpool, it raises broader questions about the state of driving safety and enforcement across the United Kingdom, prompting reflections on the consequences of negligence behind the wheel and the societal expectations placed on those in positions of responsibility.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention), [[2]](https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention), [[2]](https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention)
5. Paragraph 5: [[3]](https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/taxi-driver-s-quick-actions-avoided-head-on-crash-with-carel-363337/)
6. Paragraph 6: [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61820064), [[7]](https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-61820064)
7. Paragraph 7: [[5]](https://pembrokeshire-herald.com/98443/taxi-drivers-death-leads-to-death-by-dangerous-driving-charge/)
8. Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention), [[2]](https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7724/phtm-news/welshpool-cabbie-is-fined-but-avoids-ban-after-driving-without-due-care-or-attention> - A Welshpool taxi driver, Keith Bonner, narrowly avoided a driving ban after being found guilty of driving without due care and attention. On March 20th, he was observed reversing into oncoming traffic and failing to stop for an elderly pedestrian on a zebra crossing. Bonner contested the charges, claiming he did not reverse into oncoming traffic or fail to stop for the pedestrian. Despite his denial, the court found him guilty, citing the seriousness of the offences and their aggravation by his professional status as a taxi driver. Bonner was fined £902 and informed the magistrates of his intention to appeal the conviction.
3. <https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/taxi-driver-s-quick-actions-avoided-head-on-crash-with-carel-363337/> - In Inverness, a taxi driver narrowly avoided a head-on collision with a BMW driven by Arkadiusz Byczkowski, who admitted to driving carelessly. Despite the near-miss, Byczkowski's vehicle struck the side of the taxi, causing minor injuries to the occupants. He was fined £800 and received nine penalty points on his driving licence. The sheriff praised the taxi driver's swift actions in preventing a more serious incident and noted that Byczkowski was fortunate to avoid a head-on collision.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61820064> - Wayne Humphreys, a 77-year-old driver from Pontyclun, Rhondda Cynon Taf, was fined £1,152 and ordered to pay £620 costs and a £115 victim surcharge after passing a cyclist too closely in his Audi Q8. Humphreys was prosecuted at Cardiff Magistrates' Court for driving without due care and attention and received four penalty points for failing to leave enough space when passing the cyclist. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the fine, stating it was 'absolutely appalling' and that he had not received a fine in 35 to 40 years.
5. <https://pembrokeshire-herald.com/98443/taxi-drivers-death-leads-to-death-by-dangerous-driving-charge/> - Peter Gilmore, a 51-year-old van driver from Felinfach, was sentenced to two years and four months in prison and banned from driving for six years and two months after causing a serious head-on collision on the B4337 near Talsarn. Despite multiple reports of his erratic driving earlier that day, Gilmore continued driving and attempted to overtake a lorry, veering into the path of an oncoming car. The driver of the other vehicle sustained serious injuries. Gilmore admitted to causing serious injury by dangerous driving and failing to provide a sample for analysis.
6. <https://swanseabaynews.com/2025/05/07/police-officer-sentenced-for-careless-driving-after-crashing-police-car-while-on-duty/> - PC Phil Thomas, a response driver for South Wales Police, was sentenced at Swansea Crown Court for careless driving after crashing a police car while on duty. The incident occurred on September 29, 2024, when Thomas was following a vehicle traveling at excess speed and veered into the opposite carriageway, colliding with an oncoming vehicle and a lamppost. The driver of the other vehicle sustained minor injuries. Thomas received six penalty points on his driving licence, a £275 fine, and a £110 surcharge. He has been re-deployed from frontline duties and is subject to a parallel gross misconduct investigation.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-61820064> - Wayne Humphreys, a 77-year-old driver from Pontyclun, Rhondda Cynon Taf, was fined £1,152 and ordered to pay £620 costs and a £115 victim surcharge after passing a cyclist too closely in his Audi Q8. Humphreys was prosecuted at Cardiff Magistrates' Court for driving without due care and attention and received four penalty points for failing to leave enough space when passing the cyclist. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the fine, stating it was 'absolutely appalling' and that he had not received a fine in 35 to 40 years.