# North Kesteven council’s legal win sets precedent in taxi licence revocations



A self-employed taxi driver from Sleaford, Enus Karim, has permanently lost his licence following a protracted legal battle that underscored the commitment of North Kesteven District Council to uphold public safety in transportation services. The council’s decision to revoke his licence was upheld through both Magistrate and Crown Court proceedings, marking a significant outcome in the council’s efforts to ensure passenger safety.

The ordeal began in October 2023 when Karim, despite having three speeding convictions, was granted a hire driver licence. This decision sparked concern about the council’s vetting process, raising questions about the balance between service provision and public safety. In June 2024, after Karim was found guilty of two additional speeding offences on consecutive days at the same location, the General Licensing Sub Committee determined that he was "no longer a fit and proper person" to retain his licence, citing the increased risk his behaviour posed to passengers and other road users. This action aligns with the council's stringent licensing criteria, which prioritise safety and compliance.

This case is not an isolated incident. In a similar context, the council revoked another taxi driver’s licence in March 2023 due to previous convictions and subsequent traffic violations. This decision, which was upheld after the driver withdrew their appeal, further demonstrated North Kesteven's unwavering commitment to maintaining public confidence in licensed services. Councillor Mark Smith, who oversees licensing and public protection, highlighted that the primary goal of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing system is to safeguard the public.

Proactive measures have also been implemented by North Kesteven District Council to enhance passenger safety by introducing a national database linking the 60 individuals whose taxi licences were revoked or denied since 2008. This initiative aims to bolster public confidence by enabling local authorities to assess drivers’ histories across the country and effectively identify unsuitable applicants. Such measures reflect a broader trend among local councils towards tightening regulations and improving transparency in the taxi licensing process.

As such actions take place, they are echoed in other regions. For instance, South Cambridgeshire District Council revoked a licence in April 2025 after a driver failed to disclose multiple speeding endorsements, reinforcing the critical importance of transparency within the licensing framework. Even Sunderland City Council took similar measures when a driver was stripped of his licence following repeated speeding offences, emphasising the serious implications of non-compliance with traffic regulations for licensed operators.

The ramifications of these legal decisions are clear: maintaining public safety is paramount. In the case of Enus Karim, the legal reaffirmation of the council’s licensing policies underscores the need for accountability in the taxi industry, ensuring that drivers uphold the standards expected of them. As the landscape of taxi regulation continues to evolve, the precedent set in this case will likely influence future licensing decisions, reinforcing the imperative of strict adherence to safety regulations.

In the wake of the court rulings, Karim has been ordered to cover the council’s costs totalling £800 for the appeals he initiated. This outcome serves as a reminder of the potential consequences of failing to meet the obligations set forth by local authorities governing taxi services.

Councillor Smith expressed satisfaction with the court’s decision, remarking on the rarity of taxi appeals advancing to the Crown Court and affirming that the council’s policies and their implementation have been strongly validated through this process. This sentiment reflects a growing recognition across various councils of the need to safeguard public trust in licensing procedures, with a decisive spotlight on road safety for the benefit of all users.

### Reference Map

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

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.phtm.co.uk/news/7739/phtm-news/north-kesteven-councils-action-vindicated-as-cabbie-loses-licence-after-repeated-speeding-> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.lincolnshireworld.com/news/politics/council/council-acts-to-promote-customer-confidence-by-stripping-taxi-driver-of-licence-4067655> - In March 2023, North Kesteven District Council revoked a taxi driver's licence after determining he was no longer a 'fit and proper person' due to previous convictions and further road traffic offences. The council emphasized the importance of public safety and compliance with licensing measures. The decision was upheld after the driver's appeal was withdrawn prior to a court hearing, highlighting the council's commitment to ensuring passenger safety and maintaining public confidence in licensed services.
3. <https://www.lincolnshireworld.com/news/politics/council/sixty-people-denied-taxi-licences-in-north-kesteven-to-be-added-to-national-database-3734924> - In June 2022, North Kesteven District Council announced plans to add details of 60 individuals who had been refused or had their taxi licences revoked since 2008 to a national database. This initiative aimed to enhance passenger safety by allowing local authorities to check a driver's history across the country, thereby improving the identification of unsuitable applicants and promoting public confidence in licensed services.
4. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/taxi-driver-loses-licence-for-driving-offences> - In April 2025, South Cambridgeshire District Council revoked the licence of Kambiz Akhondi after he failed to disclose three speeding endorsements received between 2021 and 2022. The council emphasized the importance of transparency and trust in the licensing system, stating that failing to disclose penalty points is a serious matter and those who do not comply will face serious consequences.
5. <https://www.sunderlandecho.com/news/politics/sunderland-taxi-driver-loses-taxi-licence-after-four-speeding-offences-3327772> - In July 2021, Sunderland City Council revoked the taxi licence of Jalal Uddin Ahmed after he committed four speeding offences between 2017 and 2021. Despite receiving warnings and failing to inform the council of subsequent offences, his appeal was dismissed, and the council emphasized the importance of public safety and the responsibility of licensed drivers to adhere to traffic regulations.
6. <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/business-services-support-licensing/licensing/business-licences-conditions/hackney-carriage-taxi> - North Kesteven District Council provides detailed information on licensing requirements for hackney carriages (taxis) and private hire vehicles. The council outlines the definitions, licensing conditions, and expectations for both vehicle proprietors and drivers, emphasizing the importance of public safety and compliance with regulations to maintain public confidence in licensed services.
7. <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/communities-and-housing/taxi-driver-loses-licence-after-abusing-parking-enforcement-officer/> - In February 2025, Cornwall Council revoked a taxi driver's licence after he was found to have abused a parking enforcement officer. The council emphasized that such behaviour is unacceptable and that taxi drivers are expected to adhere to the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards, with failure to do so resulting in the loss of their licence.