# Builder loses job after fake TikTok driveway stunt sparks public outrage



A builder in Leeds has faced significant repercussions after a TikTok video he posted went viral for all the wrong reasons, falsely suggesting that a local homeowner’s driveway was being ripped up due to unpaid bills. The video, which accumulated nearly one million views, depicted workers from Kendall Contractors Ltd demolishing a recently completed tarmac driveway, captioned provocatively: "Can't pay? We'll take it away." This misleading portrayal led to widespread outrage, and the builder, Alex Gray, has since admitted he bears full responsibility for the stunt.

The affected homeowner, a woman in her sixties, expressed profound distress at being unfairly depicted as a bill-dodger. Despite having paid a £3,800 bill in full last year, she found herself in an untenable position, with the video suggesting otherwise. The reality was that her driveway was being re-dug only due to necessary repairs following issues with a burst water main and gas pipe. In a follow-up comment, she stated, “They’ve put me in an awful position. People online think I'm someone who doesn't pay their bills.”

In the aftermath, Gray has resigned from his position at Kendall Contractors, acknowledging the gravity of his actions. “I’ve more than learned my lesson - I've lost my job because of it,” he remarked. After realising the damage the video had caused, he visited the homeowner to offer an apology, accompanied by flowers. Gray's actions illustrate a growing trend among social media users who, chasing viral fame, sometimes engage in reckless behaviour with far-reaching consequences.

This incident is not isolated. The realm of social media, particularly TikTok, has been rife with similar stunts that blur the lines between entertainment and potential harm. Influencers like Dominykas 'Durte Dom' Zeglaitis have also faced backlash after staging dangerous scenarios for clout, highlighting a concerning pattern of reckless behaviour for social media fame. Zeglaitis was banned from TikTok after falsely claiming responsibility for a staged Tesla crash, an act that ultimately led to police involvement, demonstrating how the drive for likes and shares can spiral out of control.

The ramifications of such viral phenomena extend beyond individual embarrassment; they can lead to permanent damage to reputations and livelihoods. In another instance, a new driver lost her job after a viral video depicted her careening a car over a fence, showcasing the harsh reality of social media’s immediate and profound impacts on personal and professional lives.

Speaking on the issue, Gray admitted, “You don’t realise how powerful social media is and that’s a lack of intelligence on my own behalf.” His experience serves as a stark reminder to content creators and consumers alike: the allure of viral success often comes with unforeseen risks that can greatly overshadow the fleeting glory of internet fame.

In response to the backlash and confusion caused by the viral video, Kendall Contractors has made efforts to clarify the situation, affirming that the original work on the driveway had indeed been completed and that the resurfacing was prompted by external factors unrelated to non-payment. The firm stressed that they regretted any misunderstandings brought about by the now-deleted video, demonstrating a willingness to restore their reputation.

As the dust settles on this saga, it emphasizes the often overlooked responsibilities that accompany social media creation. The boundary between harmless fun and deceptive portrayals can be perilously thin, prompting a call for greater awareness among content creators regarding the real-life implications of their virtual actions.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://centennialworld.com/durte-dom-banned-tiktok-fake-tesla-crash-stunt/), [[6]](https://people.com/crime/viral-tesla-stunt-crash-sparks-lapd-investigation-authorities-name-tiktoker-person-of-interest/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://briefly.co.za/people/170702-tiktok-video-shows-car-hopping-fence-drivers-day-stunt-leads-job-loss/), [[5]](https://www.newsweek.com/doorbell-catches-builder-drifting-boss-snow-1789204)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743821/Tiktok-driveway-stunt-Builder-admits-blame-video.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - A builder from Leeds, Alex Gray, admitted responsibility for a viral TikTok video that falsely depicted a homeowner's driveway being ripped up over an unpaid bill. The video, which garnered nearly one million views, showed workers from Kendall Contractors Ltd tearing up a tarmac driveway with the caption: 'Can't pay? We'll take it away.' The homeowner had already paid her £3,800 bill in full last year. Following the incident, Gray resigned from the company and personally apologized to the homeowner, acknowledging the stunt was a 'daft thing to do.'
3. <https://centennialworld.com/durte-dom-banned-tiktok-fake-tesla-crash-stunt/> - Social media influencer Dominykas 'Durte Dom' Zeglaitis was banned from TikTok after falsely claiming responsibility for a viral Tesla crash stunt. Initially, Zeglaitis posted videos on his social media accounts, claiming he was behind the stunt where a Tesla crashed into parked vehicles. However, he later admitted that the incident was staged for views and that he was not involved. Following his false confession, TikTok removed his verified account with 2.7 million followers.
4. <https://briefly.co.za/people/170702-tiktok-video-shows-car-hopping-fence-drivers-day-stunt-leads-job-loss/> - A TikTok video showing a car leaping over a fence on a new driver's first day went viral, leading to her losing her job. The video, shared by user @khanyisithole, revealed that the incident occurred on the driver's first day at work. The astonishing footage left viewers in disbelief, and the unexpected twist of the new driver losing her job garnered empathy and concern from the audience.
5. <https://www.newsweek.com/doorbell-catches-builder-drifting-boss-snow-1789204> - A builder named Jay Cauwood was caught on a homeowner's doorbell camera drifting his van in the snow, leading to trouble with his boss. The video, which went viral on TikTok with millions of views, showed Cauwood using the untouched snow to perform a drift. The homeowner sent the footage to Cauwood's boss, who reminded him to 'grow up' and be professional at all times. Cauwood later explained that he couldn't resist the temptation when he saw the snow-covered ground.
6. <https://people.com/crime/viral-tesla-stunt-crash-sparks-lapd-investigation-authorities-name-tiktoker-person-of-interest/> - A viral video showing a Tesla performing a dangerous stunt and crashing into parked cars in Los Angeles led to an investigation by the LAPD. The driver, identified as social media influencer Dominykas Zeglaitis (known as Durte Dom), initially claimed responsibility for the stunt. However, he later admitted that the incident was staged for views and that he was not involved. The LAPD had received numerous tips identifying Zeglaitis as a person of interest based on his social media posts.
7. <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/man-claiming-responsibility-for-echo-park-tesla-stunt-confronted-by-ktla/> - Dominykas Zeglaitis, known as Durte Dom on social media, claimed responsibility for a dangerous Tesla stunt in Echo Park, Los Angeles. The stunt involved a Tesla driving up a steep hill, becoming airborne, and crashing into parked cars. Zeglaitis initially spoke about the incident but later declined to comment, citing legal advice. Despite his claims, the LAPD considered him a person of interest based on public postings on his social media accounts.