



**IN THE SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN TRAFFIC AREA**  
**PUBLIC INQUIRY**  
**under the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995**

**OK2004361**

**PARAMOUNT TRANSPORT CONSULTANTS LTD**

**TRANSPORT MANAGER – GURPREET KAUR BHATIA**

**BEFORE**

**ANTHONY SECULER**  
**DEPUTY TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER**

**HEARD AT THE OFFICE OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER,**  
**IVY HOUSE, EASTBOURNE BN21 4QT**

**ON**

**30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

**Decision**

1. The licence for Paramount Transport Consultants Ltd is revoked forthwith under Section 27(1)(a) of the Act.
2. Gurpreet Kaur Bhatia, is warned in respect of her repute as a director/operator and in respect of her professional competence/repute as a transport manager.

## **Background**

1. Paramount Transport Consultants Ltd (“the operator”), is the holder of a Standard National Operator’s Licence, issued on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017, authorising the use of 4 vehicles and 4 trailers.
2. Gurpreet Kaur Bhatia is the sole director and transport manager.
3. Since the grant of the licence in 2017 only 2 vehicles have been specified:
  - PX10 DFZ – from 18<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018
  - DN63 FUD – from 29<sup>th</sup> June – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018
4. PX10 DFZ was issued with a prohibition and the driver, Rajwant Bath, was issued with a fixed penalty on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The driver had previously been a director of UR Logistics Ltd, whose licence was revoked in 2015. The director was also disqualified as an operator for one year.
5. DN63 FUD had previously been specified on a revoked licence held by Abna Transport Ltd, a company with links to Rajwant Bath through her daughter, Pawangeet Bath. The ABNA licence was revoked from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and the director disqualified for 2 years.
6. By a call-up letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the operator was required to attend a public inquiry on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019, adjourned to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The transport manager was called to attend in respect of her repute/professional competence and ability to manage the various transport activities under her responsibility.

## **The Public Inquiry**

7. At the public inquiry the operator and transport manager attended represented by Mr Mason, Solicitor.

### **The Evidence**

8. The evidence of the use of the vehicles was not disputed and the operator made a clear admission that she succumbed to pressure from the Bath family to utilize her operator's licence to allow transport activities to be undertaken by the disqualified operators. Whilst these arrangements were initially intended to be legitimised by hire and driver agreements, these details were never put in place and the unauthorised use was permitted.

### **Decision and Reasons**

9. I weigh in the balance the following features for this operator:
  1. The unauthorised use was for a relatively short period.
  2. The operator felt under pressure to agree the arrangement.
  3. The operator is relatively inexperienced as an operator and transport manager and has learnt from the unfortunate experience.
  4. Although the unauthorised use was exacerbated by a letter from Mrs Bhatia, dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 still purporting to maintain the illusion that Mrs Rajwant Bath was working legitimately for the operator, she made full admissions at the public inquiry.
10. Allowing unauthorised use is a serious breach of the trust placed in operators and it is conceded that the repute of the operator company must be forfeit on the facts.
11. Accordingly, I revoke the operator's licence for the operator company with immediate effect under section 27(1)(a) of the Act. The Bryan Haulage (No.2) (2002/217) question, "is the conduct such that the operator ought to be put out of business? is not strictly relevant as the main business of the operator is as a transport consultancy and not a vehicle operator.

12. I take the factors in paragraph 9 above into account in allowing Gurpreet Singh Bhatia to retain her personal repute as a director of the operator company and as a transport manager. She should be in no doubt that, particularly where she purports to guide and instruct others on achieving compliance, her conduct has been deemed as serious and that the warning I place against her repute and professional competence as a transport manager is intended to be meaningful and a final chance.



Anthony Seculer,  
Deputy Traffic Commissioner,  
South East Metropolitan Traffic Area.  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019