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FAO Chief Officer of West Yorkshire Police

16th March 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

RE: Mr Sam Donnelly – D.O.B 25.02.1989

I am writing in relation to an application I have made for a personal licence. I attended a course for the licence qualification on Wednesday 14th March 2012. I have completed the relevant application forms and requested a copy of my Criminal Records Bureau certificate to be sent to me.

I understand that my application will be forwarded to you for consideration, that is why I am writing to you.

I have a criminal record and I take this opportunity to try and explain some of my behaviour in the past so that you have all the facts before you make a decision about my suitability to hold a personal licence.

I am 23 years old and I have lived with my grandparents since the age of 14 due to difficulties at home with my parents, who were abusive, unloving and uncaring. There was never any formal arrangements made for me to live with my grandparents, for e.g. through the courts I just ran away from home one day and never returned. I have two sisters, both who left home before the age of 17 again due to my parents abusive behaviour.

My grandparents have been amazing and have always provided me with everything I have ever needed. They love me unconditionally. However regardless of this, as a teenager I would often get into trouble. I have been arrested a number of times, often for minor, disorderly behaviour. I honestly believe that I behaved in this way as a young man because I didn't know how else to deal with issues.

I also have a conviction for drink driving for which I am completely ashamed! This happened over 3 years ago and I can promise you I have never, ever, ever been behind the wheel of a car since. My arrest and subsequent conviction was the start of my realisation that I had to change my life although I admit this did not happen overnight.

I have always worked since leaving college until the end of October last year (2011) when I was laid off because there was not enough work. Between November 2011 and January 2012 I applied for over 100 jobs without success.

I then made the decision to apply for the tenancy of a pub, called The Swillington. My application was successful and I have been managing the pub since the 1st February 2012. I believe that so far I have done a really good job of running the pub and I really enjoy it.

Just before I applied for the pub I had moved in with my girlfriend. We have been going out for almost a year, she has two children from a previous relationship. When I got the pub we made the decision that we would move into the pub together with the kids. We thought it would be better for business if we lived onsite and I really wanted to get my family involved. We are in the process of moving into the pub this week and my girlfriend has rented out her house.

There is absolutely nothing I can do to change my past but there are lots of things I can do to change my future. I am willing to work my hardest to make my business work, not only for myself but for my family. I am fully prepared to work alongside the police. I have already made arrangements with a local club to travel with them to the next pub watch meeting.

I don't think that there are any excuses for the way I have behaved in the past, but I can assure you I am a different person now. I rarely drink and I have ambitions and goals that I want to achieve. I am in a stable and loving relationship and I now have the responsibility of looking after two children and I don't want to let them or myself down. If I were not awarded a personal licence we would all have to move back out of the pub which would obviously be upsetting for all of us.

Most of my bad behaviour was when I was very young and I hope that my lack of maturity at that time will be taken into consideration. I really want to make this work and I can assure you I will be responsible and trustworthy.

I thank you sincerely for taking the time to read this.

Yours faithfully

Mr Sam Donnelly