

'IT'S TIME FOR BHOYS TO BOLSTER SQUAD'



'BOARD MUST BACK BOSS IN JANUARY'

PAGES 34-35

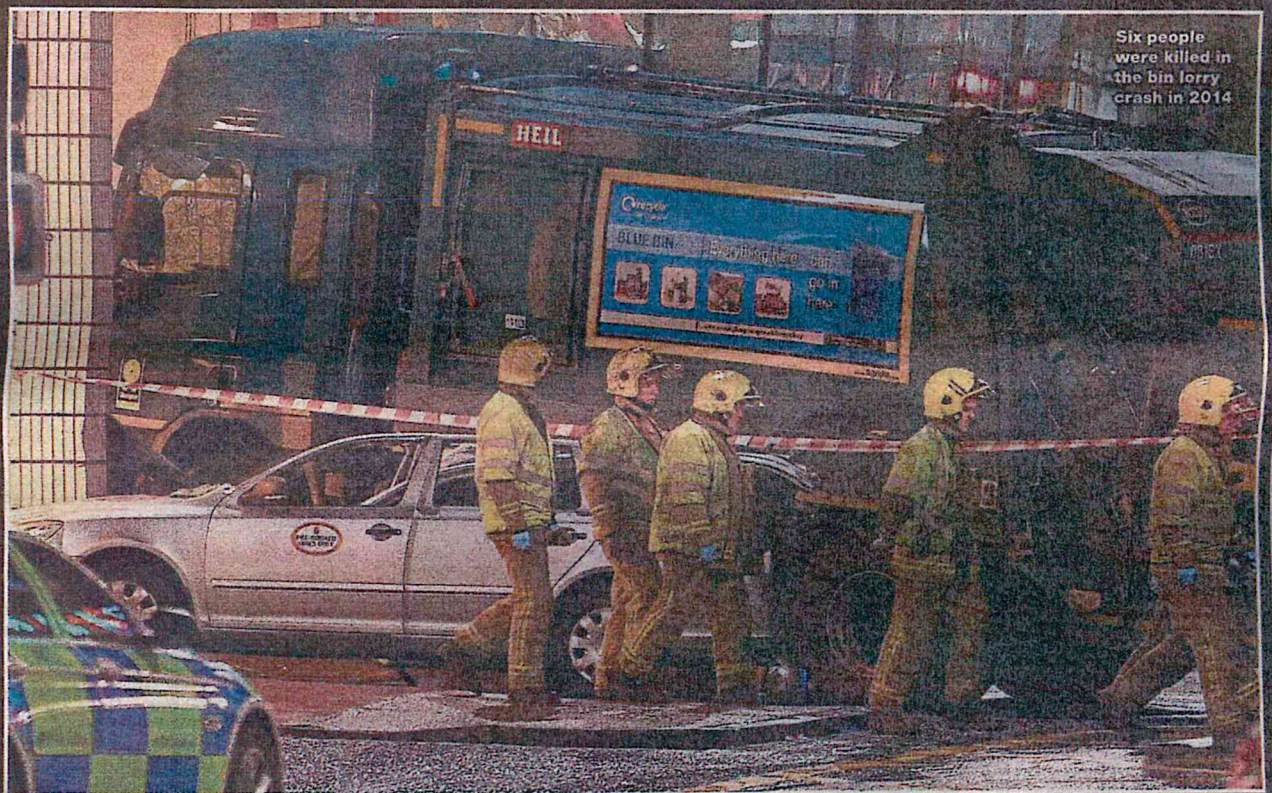
Evening Times

68p

NOBODY KNOWS GLASGOW BETTER

Tuesday December 18, 2018

Bin lorry crash victim's lawyer calls for medical check shake-up



Six people were killed in the bin lorry crash in 2014



INSIDE

Dad's plea after fire at home

GOOD Samaritan led a dad-of-four through a devastating fire that broke out in his home. John McLaughlin is appealing for the public to come forward if they might know anything.

It comes as locals have explained a church congregation is blocking the street in emergency services with fire trucks backing up the claims.

Story: Page 11

INSIDE

Code of conduct for buskers

A CODE of conduct has been launched for buskers - which includes advice about set lists, complaints made at the artists on the Style Mile have led council to take action.

Story: Page 3



Search is on for our next big winner

Scottswoman of the year

Pages 6-7

CHANGING HGV LICENCE RULES CAN 'SAVE LIVES'

BY CATRIONA STEWART

THE lawyer representing the family of a Glasgow bin lorry victim has called for an end to a 'scandalous' practice that allows drivers to gain an HGV licence without full medical checks.

Full story: Pages 4-5

Call for HGV licence r

Solicitor for family of bin lorry crash victim urges transport secretary to step in

EXCLUSIVE
BY CATRIONA STEWART

THE solicitor for the family of one of the victims of the Glasgow bin lorry crash has said a "systemic failure" in driver health record checks could put further lives at risk.

Ronald Conway, Scottish Co-ordinator for the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), acted for the Tait family in the Fatal Accident Inquiry following the 2014 crash that left six dead and 17 injured.

Driver Harry Clarke, who passed out at the wheel, had been declared fit to drive after lying to his GP about a previously fainting episode while driving a bus.

His deception could have been caught in 2011 when he renewed his HGV licence.

Mr Conway said Clarke's actions are part of a "wider scandal" he calls a "cottage industry based on driver convenience with no thought of public safety".

Mr Conway said: "Drivers with their livelihood at stake put on Boy Scouts' honour to tell the truth about their medical history with excellent prospects that any false declarations will go undetected and unpunished."

"That is until and unless we have yet another tragedy."

"They should be removed from temptation."

"It is high time for the Secretary of State for Transport to carry out an urgent consultation with a view to legislative change."

To renew an HGV licence a driver must have a DVLA D4 signed by a doctor to declare a clean bill of health.

Private firms will arrange for the form to be signed by a medical practitioner for a fee of around £50 but the signatory will not have site of the applicant's medical records.

Calling this a "box ticking exercise" that has allowed a "cottage industry" to spring up, APIL is now launching a campaign to call for changes in the law.

Jacqueline Morton, 51, and

Stephenie Tait, 29, from Glasgow, Erin McQuade, 18, and her grandparents Jack Sweeney, 68, and his 69-year-old wife Lorraine, from Dumbarton, and Gillian Ewing, 52, all died in the bin lorry crash on December 22, 2014.

Another 17 were injured.

In December 2011, Clarke renewed his HGV licence by filling in the DVLA D4 application form, which asks about medical episodes in the previous five years.

He said there was none and at a face to face medical examination with an independent doctor, he also declared there had been none.

The medic, a Dr Willox, did not have access to Clarke's medical records and so accepted his version of events.

At the Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) in 2015, Dr

“

They are public events so that lessons can be learned

Willox testified that had she known about the previous faint she would have asked for further inquiries.

Mr Conway said: "People can make up their own minds about Harry Clarke but it is difficult to view him as a criminal mastermind."

"The ease with which he gamed the DVLA application system to retain his HGV licence is deeply disquieting."

At the FAI, the judge Lord Beckett expressed the view that a requirement should be explored for occupational health doctors performing D4 exams to have applicants sign a consent form authorising the release of relevant medical records.

In his judgment, Lord Beckett recommended the Secretary of State for Transport should consult on how to ensure information available to examining doctors was accurate and complete.

Between 2010 and 2014 there were three fatal road crashes where fainting at the



wheel was involved, two in Glasgow.

Students Mhairi Convy and Laura Stewart were killed in Glasgow city centre when driver William Payne fainted and lost control of his 4x4.

Mr Payne had suffered four previous blackouts from 2007 but, when examined in July 2010 by an occupational health doctor, he denied any previous problems.

The doctor did not have access to his medical records and certified him as fit to drive.

The scene in Glasgow after the bin lorry crash in 2014, and inset, students Mhairi Convy and Laura Stewart who were killed when a driver fainted behind the wheel of his 4x4

In 2012, James Lochrie was killed at a bus shelter on Cathcart Road, on the South Side, when a First Bus driver fainted at the wheel.

The driver, David Logue, had also suffered four previous faints but misled medical practitioners with no access to his medical records.

Sheriff Mitchell, presiding over the FAI, called on the Secretary of State to begin legislative change to ensure medical decisions are made only with access to medical records.

les boost for selling cigs

introduction of plain cigarette packaging led to an increase in the sales of leading brands, research suggests. A study by Stirling University found the sales of top-selling cigarettes increased by almost 5 per cent – or extra 38p on a pack of 10 – in the 18 months the legislation was introduced. The price of hand-rolled tobacco also rose by around 8 per cent to 91p on a 30g

researchers said their findings are at odds with tobacco companies' predictions that plain packaging, which would remove the mandatory in last year, would lead to lower prices and greater affordability. Nathan Critchlow, Stirling's Institute of Social Marketing, said: "Tobacco companies were strongly opposed to plain packaging. They appeared to think that, if the ban was implemented, sales would only be expected to compete on price, which would result in lower prices, greater stability and, consequently, increased competition. Our study, however, shows early evidence of these concerns of lower prices appear to be unfounded."

thing boost winter plea

ALY 1700 items of winter clothing have been donated to homeless and vulnerable people in Glasgow as part of a winter appeal. The appeal, a UK-wide faith-based initiative, carried out the appeal as part of their 2016/17 winter appeal. The appeal, a UK-wide faith-based initiative, carried out the appeal as part of their 2016/17 winter appeal. The appeal, a UK-wide faith-based initiative, carried out the appeal as part of their 2016/17 winter appeal.

man Appeal's chair said: "These are winter clothing just warm a heart they could change a

es shake-up



Mr Conway said: "Fatal accident inquiries are public events, frequently to the distress and upset of the bereaved families. "None more so than the bin inquiry. "They are public events so that lessons can be learned, changes made and our streets made safer. "Otherwise, those families affected might well wonder at his dread anniversary, what has been the point of it all? "At present, there is nothing in place to prevent others

like Harry Clarke concealing their medical history, sailing through a D4 medical examination, and being lawfully placed behind the wheel of an HGV vehicle." Lord Beckett recommended Glasgow City Council should carry out an internal review of its employment processes. The council had already begun this process prior to the judgment and it now seeks reports from a candidate's GP with regards their fitness to drive and these reports are

assessed by an Occupational Health Provider. On receipt of medical clearance is the candidate then able to progress to the next stage of the recruitment process. No employment offers are made until these steps have been completed successfully. A spokeswoman for the DVLA said: "Our medical standards for large vehicle drivers are already very high. "However, we always keep the medical assessment process under review."

Friends bid to help family of hurt teen

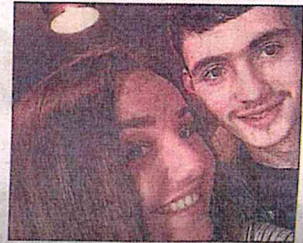
FRIENDS of a teenage girl seriously injured in a horror car accident in Glasgow are raising funds for her family as they maintain a constant vigil at her hospital bedside.

Jennifer Kennedy, 17, is being treated in intensive care after being hit by a vehicle as she was walked home from college in the East End of the city.

The teenager, who is from Barmulloch, suffered serious head injuries and is still thought to be in a coma the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

Doctors have told the family they will not know the extent of her brain injuries until she regains consciousness.

The accident happened on Monday, December 3, just after 4.30pm when Jennifer was on her way home



Jennifer with her boyfriend Paddy

from Glasgow Kelvin College in Haghill, where she is studying IT and office administration.

Jennifer's friends Siobhan McFarland and Alexis Reid have launched a fundraising page to help the family with transport costs and other expenses as their lives remain on hold.

Siobhan said: "Her family don't know the full extent of Jennifer's head injury or how she's going to be when she wakes up. "Anything raised big

or small will help Jennifer's family majorly to get everything that she needs when she wakes up and will help to put everything in place to get her back home.

"It will also help her family back and forth to the hospital as this tragedy has had a big impact on them all especially her two little brothers who absolutely adore the big sister."

To donate funds go to www.gofundme.com/se98-jennifer-kennedy

GUINNESS PRO14
FINAL 2019 GLASGOW

THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT
CELTIC PARK | 25TH MAY
PRO14RUGBY.ORG