

[REDACTED]

From: Mark Stainton
Sent: 23 December 2022 11:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: For approval: Blue Badge fraud press release

Fine by me thanks [REDACTED]

Best wishes

Mark Stainton
Director of Adult Social Care and Health
East Sussex County Council

[REDACTED]
eastsussex.gov.uk



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: Mark Stainton <Mark.Stainton@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 December 2022 11:17
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: For approval: Blue Badge fraud press release

Good to go from my perspective [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Best wishes

Mark Stainton

Director of Adult Social Care and Health

East Sussex County Council



From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 December 2022 09:41
To: Mark Stainton <Mark.Stainton@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: For approval: Blue Badge fraud press release

Hi Mark,

Attached is a press release about a court case involving Blue Badge fraud.

Can I check that you are happy with this? [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Senior Media and Content Officer
East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council
Communications

[Redacted]
[Redacted]



Draft

Faked letter lands Blue Badge applicant in court

AN Eastbourne man who faked a medical letter to support a Blue Badge application has been handed a suspended prison sentence.

██████████ was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years, when he appeared at Lewes Crown Court after pleading guilty two counts of fraud at an earlier hearing.

The ██████-year-old, from ██████████, had submitted a letter from a neurologist to support his application to East Sussex County Council for a Blue Badge.

But the council launched an investigation after they noticed obvious grammatical errors in the letter, which claimed that ██████ was unable to walk more than 20 metres. When contacted, the hospital involved confirmed the letter had not come from them.

When interviewed by East Sussex County Council's investigations officer, ██████ denied he had produced the letter, and even made a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsmen.

Sentencing on Thursday, December 22, Recorder Mercer told ██████ "What you did was look at a genuine letter from a neurologist which was a letter from a ██████████. You used that letter to cut and paste a different letter purporting to be from an ██████████

"There is no question you have a debilitating condition. You should have challenged the refusal of a blue badge by seeing a doctor and getting a genuine letter of support."

He added that the custodial sentence should make it clear that people who commit Blue Badge fraud will go to prison.

Cllr Carl Maynard, East Sussex County Council's lead member for adult social care, said: "This conviction is the result of the hard work and dedication of our Blue Badge team and should act as a deterrent to anyone thinking they can use false information or documents to get a Blue Badge.

"We will not tolerate any kind of fraudulent activity - if you genuinely need a Blue Badge and meet the nationally-set criteria, there is absolutely no need to lie."

The 12-month suspended sentence given to ██████ includes a six-week curfew requirement meaning he must be at home between the hours of 8pm and 8am. No order for costs was made.

Ends.

Draft

Faked letter lands Blue Badge applicant in court

AN Eastbourne man who faked a medical letter to support a Blue Badge application has been handed a suspended prison sentence.

██████████ was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years, when he appeared at Lewes Crown Court after pleading guilty two counts of fraud at an earlier hearing.

The ██████ year-old, from ██████████, had submitted a letter from a neurologist to support his application to East Sussex County Council for a Blue Badge.

But the council launched an investigation after they noticed obvious grammatical errors in the letter, which claimed that ██████ was unable to walk more than 20 metres. When contacted, the hospital involved confirmed the letter had not come from them.

When interviewed by East Sussex County Council's investigations officer, ██████ denied he had produced the letter, and even made a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsmen.

Sentencing on Thursday, December 22, Recorder Mercer told ██████: "What you did was look at a genuine letter from a neurologist which was a letter from a ██████████. You used that letter to cut and paste a different letter purporting to be from an ██████████

"It was not immediately obvious that the letter was a forgery, but the local authority are used to fraudulent claims and looked at it carefully."

He added that the custodial sentence should make it clear that people who commit Blue Badge fraud will go to prison.

Cllr Carl Maynard, East Sussex County Council's lead member for adult social care, said: "This conviction is the result of the hard work and dedication of our Blue Badge team and should act as a deterrent to anyone thinking they can use false information or documents to get a Blue Badge.

"We will not tolerate any kind of fraudulent activity - if you genuinely need a Blue Badge and meet the nationally-set criteria, there is absolutely no need to lie."

The 12-month suspended sentence given to ██████ includes a six-week curfew requirement meaning he must be at home between the hours of 8pm and 8am. No order for costs was made.

Ends.

Draft - final

Faked letter lands Blue Badge applicant in court

AN Eastbourne man who faked a medical letter to support a Blue Badge application has been handed a suspended prison sentence.

██████████ was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years, when he appeared at Lewes Crown Court after pleading guilty two counts of fraud at an earlier hearing.

The ██████-year-old, from ██████████, had submitted a letter from a neurologist to support his application to East Sussex County Council for a Blue Badge.

But the council launched an investigation after they noticed obvious grammatical errors in the letter, which claimed that ██████ was unable to walk more than 20 metres. When contacted, the hospital involved confirmed the letter had not come from them.

When interviewed by East Sussex County Council's investigations officer, ██████ denied he had produced the letter, and even made a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsmen.

Sentencing on Thursday, December 22, Recorder Mercer told ██████: "What you did was look at a genuine letter from a neurologist which was a letter from a ██████████. You used that letter to cut and paste a different letter purporting to be from an ██████████."

"It was not immediately obvious that the letter was a forgery, but the local authority are used to fraudulent claims and looked at it carefully."

He added that the custodial sentence should make it clear that people who commit Blue Badge fraud will go to prison.

Cllr Carl Maynard, East Sussex County Council's lead member for adult social care, said: "This conviction is the result of the hard work and dedication of our Blue Badge team and should act as a deterrent to anyone thinking they can use false information or documents to get a Blue Badge.

"We will not tolerate any kind of fraudulent activity - if you genuinely need a Blue Badge and meet the nationally-set criteria, there is absolutely no need to lie."

The 12-month suspended sentence given to ██████ includes a six-week curfew requirement meaning he must be at home between the hours of 8pm and 8am. No order for costs was made.

Ends.

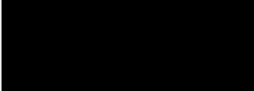
Properties ▾

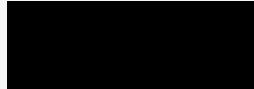
Size	14.3KB
Pages	1
Words	349
Total Editing Time	207 Minutes
Title	Add a title
Tags	Add a tag
Comments	Add comments

Related Dates

Last Modified	23/12/2022 11:25
Created	22/12/2022 14:11
Last Printed	

Related People

Author	
	Add an author

Last Modified By	
------------------	---

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2025 15:58
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I've now removed the article from the website.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Senior Media and Content Officer
East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council
Communications



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2025 15:48
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] would it be ok to remove the press release now from the public website?
Let me know the outcome?

[REDACTED]
Customer Services Manager
Customer Services Team, Communities, Economy and Transport

[REDACTED]
eastsussex.gov.uk



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 09 December 2025 16:46

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear All,

I have finally had a response from the CCRC. They will NOT re-open his conviction.

[REDACTED]

Solicitor-Advocate,
Higher Courts Criminal Proceedings,
Legal Services,
Governance Services,
County Hall,
Lewes
BN7 1UE

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

We are not on the DX system

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Request and **Response**

This request concerns the creation, publication and subsequent removal of the ESCC press release issued in December 2022 regarding blue badge fraud.

A. Creation and approval

1. All internal draft versions of the press release

Please see attachments 'ASC - Blue Badge - Dec 22 (1)_Redacted' and 'ASC - Blue Badge - Dec 22 (2)_Redacted'. You will see some information has been redacted. We consider this information to be personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. Such information is exempt from disclosure by section 40(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000.

2. The final approved version prior to publication

Please see attachment 'ASC - Blue Badge - Dec 22 (3)_Redacted'. You will see some information has been redacted. We consider this information to be personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. Such information is exempt from disclosure by section 40(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000.

3. Names (where permitted), roles and departments of all individuals involved in drafting, reviewing, approving or authorising the notice

Please see attachment 'Approval Email Chain_Redacted'. You will see some information has been redacted. We do not disclose details of Council officers below Head of Service level. We consider this information to be personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. Such information is exempt from disclosure by section 40(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000.

4. Any internal policy, guidance or enforcement publicity framework used to justify publication

Not applicable. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held.

5. Any risk assessment, DPIA or equivalent evaluation carried out before publication

Not applicable. Formal assessments of this kind are not routinely required as part of news publication. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held.

6. Metadata associated with the press release files (creation date, modification history, author ID, approval timestamps)

Please see attachment 'Metadata Screenshot_redacted'. You will see some information has been redacted. We do not disclose details of Council officers below Head of Service level. We consider this information to be personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. Such information is exempt from disclosure by section 40(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000.

B. Internal & external communications

Internal

1. Emails, Teams messages, notes or briefings referring to:
a) the decision to publish

Please see attachment 'Approval Email Chain_Redacted'. You will see some information has been redacted. We do not disclose details of Council officers below Head of Service level. We consider this information to be personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. Such information is exempt from disclosure by section 40(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000.

b) the decision to remove

Please see page 1-2 of the attachment 'Removal Email Chain_Redacted'. You will see some information has been redacted. We do not disclose details of Council officers below Head of Service level. We consider this information to be personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018. Such information is exempt from disclosure by section 40(2) Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Redactions at the end of page 2 have been applied as this information was not in scope of your request.

c) any concerns about accuracy, legality or reputational risk

Information not held. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not

held.

d) External

* Communications between ESCC and:

- Yahoo
- PressReader
- Internet Archive
- SussexWorld / Sussex Express
- The Argus
- ITV Meridian
- What's On in Brighton
- Bournefree Live
- any other media outlet or platform

regarding:

- republication of the ESCC press release
- requests for correction or removal
- discussions about accuracy or liability

Not applicable. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held.

C. Removal of content

1. Exact date and time the press release was removed from the ESCC site

Information not held. The press release was hosted on a previous website version of the East Sussex newsroom which has been replaced. Back-ups of the old website are not retained. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held. However, please see pg. 1 of the attachment 'Removal Email Chain_Redacted', email dated 10 December 2025 at 15:58 which confirms the date and time that the officer confirmed they had removed the press release from the ESCC site (10 December 2025 at 15:58).

2. Internal reason recorded for the removal

Please see pg. 2. of the attachment 'Removal Email Chain_Redacted', email dated 9 December 2025 at 16:46 which confirms that the Criminal Cases Review Commission would not re-open the conviction.

3. Communications with external platforms or outlets regarding:

- removal requests
- de-indexing
- cache deletion
- any related action

Information not held. As confirmed in B(1)(d) above, there have been no communications with external platforms or outlets. Therefore, no communications specific to removal requests, de-indexing, cache deletion or any related action are held. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held.

D. Italian criminal proceeding

* Any internal communication referring to the Italian criminal proceeding concerning the accuracy or republication of the ESCC press release.

* Any communication between ESCC and:
- Italian authorities

East Sussex County Council has not engaged in any correspondence with the Italian authorities regarding the Italian criminal proceeding concerning the accuracy or republication of the ESCC press release. Therefore, information is not held. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held.

- the UK ICO

East Sussex County Council has not engaged in any correspondence with the UK ICO regarding the Italian criminal proceeding concerning the accuracy or republication of the ESCC press release. Therefore, information is not held. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held.

- legal advisors

East Sussex County Council has not engaged in any correspondence with legal advisors regarding the Italian criminal proceeding concerning the accuracy or republication of the ESCC press release. Therefore, information is not held. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held.

E. System logs and audit trail

* Any system logs, audit trails or CMS records showing:

- creation
- modification
- approval
- publication
- removal

including user IDs, timestamps and workflow actions.

Please see request A6 above for information regarding metadata. No further information is held. As confirmed at C1, the press release was hosted on a previous website version of the East Sussex newsroom which has been replaced. Back-ups of the old website are not retained. Under Section 3(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 there is an exemption from the duty to provide information on request when the information is not held.

From: Shan.Mauritzon@eastsussex.gov.uk
To: [REDACTED].com,ss-sussexadmin@justice.gov.uk
Sent: Tue Dec 06 2022 06:46:15 GMT
Subject: RE: Voluntary Declaration - your Ref. ESSC -v- Riccardo Gresta

Microsoft Exchange Server;converted from html;

Dear [REDACTED],

This has been addressed to myself so I will respond.

You have no legal standing to make representations on behalf of Mr. Gresta or to address the court.

When Mr. Gresta pleaded guilty, he was legally represented and had the benefit of an interpreter. His legal team and the court would have satisfied itself as to his capacity to make the decision to plead guilty.

A Pre sentence report was commissioned and he again openly admitted his guilt to his probation officer.

A sentencing hearing took place on the 22nd of November at which again he was legally represented and had an interpreter present. No application was made to vacate his early guilty plea.

The matter was transferred to the Crown Court for sentence and the Crown Court will ask him to confirm his guilty plea on the 22nd of December before sentencing him.

Gareth Jones

Solicitor Advocate

Higher Courts Criminal Proceedings

Legal Services

Governance Services

County Hall

Lewes BN7 1UE

Tel: 01273 481209

Email: Gareth.jones@eastsussex.gov.uk

We are no longer on the DX System

From: [REDACTED].com>

Sent: 05 December 2022 14:50

To: Gareth Jones <gareth.jones@eastsussex.gov.uk>; ss-sussexadmin@justice.gov.uk

Subject: Voluntary Declaration - your Ref. ESSC -v- Riccardo Gresta

gareth.jones@eastsussex.gov.uk

ss-sussexadmin@Justice.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Jones

Dears Magistrates' court

I, [REDACTED], former carer of Mr Riccardo Gresta, feel the duty to provide information to honour the truth and justice.

On 22nd April 2022, Mr Riccardo Gresta wrote a letter of appeal, printed on both sides of a single sheet of paper, and asked me to send it by post and provided me with his debit card, also.

Mr Riccardo Gresta was going through a period of great stress and it is very likely that he was not able to remember what really happened on that day.

In any case, I sent this appeal on his behalf, on the afternoon of 22nd April 2022. It was printed on both sides of a single sheet of paper and was included in an envelope, sent then via a postal service called "Signed for". To confirm what I declare, I invite you to ask Mr. Riccardo Gresta copy of the postal receipt, which confirms the weight of 10 grams, which is equivalent to an envelope weighing 5 grams and a sheet of paper weighing 5 grams. This proves that the envelope sent on behalf of Mr Riccardo Gresta contained nothing but the letter of his appeal. The postal tracking confirms that the envelope I sent on 22nd April 2022 was received by ESSC, St Mary's House, on 25th April 2022. My understanding is that Mr Mark Jobling refused to show to Mr Gresta the original envelope and its content, that ESSC received by post.

On 30th June 2022 I accompanied Mr. Riccardo Gresta to Hailsham for the interview under caution as requested by Mr. Mark Jobling. He was waiting for Mr. Gresta at the entrance to the building, and when we entered the building itself, Mr. Jobling approached Mr. Gresta with an attitude that I would define aggressive, stopping a few inches from Mr. Gresta, in what appeared to be an intimidating act. I remind you that Mr. Gresta is a disabled and vulnerable person. While Mr Riccardo Gresta was explaining that I was both his carer and interpreter, Mr Jobling prevented me from staying in the interview room to assist Mr. Riccardo Gresta from a linguistic point of view, as his conditions required. I was invited to stay in the reception, where I was joined by Mr. Jobling after a few minutes. He asked me whether Mr Gresta was able to understand and speak English or not. I answered that he was not able to fully understand everything and above all not to know how to respond adequately in English, but my statements didn't seem to be a problem for Mr Jobling, who went back to his office to talk to Mr Gresta. While I was sitting outside the interview room, I heard that Mr Mark Jobling started to raise his voice, which I considered aggressive.

I accompanied Mr Riccardo Gresta both at the hearing of 19th July 2022 and at that of 16th August 2022, but unfortunately for him, on 27th August 2022 I left the UK and moved abroad permanently for work reasons. I am now in probation time for my job and for this reason I cannot travel abroad. However, I learned that on 20th September 2022 Mr Riccardo Gresta pleaded guilty to a crime he did not commit. I'm afraid he made this decision under conditions that may have altered his decision-making capacity and under pressure or threats or circumstances that I do not know. I inform you that Mr Riccardo Gresta, since the beginning of August 2022 at least, has been under medical treatment for mental health conditions (I accompanied him to the Eastbourne DGH on 3rd August and we left the hospital on the following morning), where he was visited by doctors and psychologists, because of the devastating psycho-physical effects due to this absurd and false accusation. He is still taking medication for this reason.

For the sake of truth and justice.

