



UK ROAD TRANSPORT LAWYERS FOR DUTCH AND BELGIAN TRANSPORT HAULIERS

Civil Penalty fines for carrying illegal immigrants reduced by nearly 70%

A large European haulage firm received a heavy financial penalty after illegal immigrants were found in one of their trucks entering the UK. Following detailed submissions prepared by transport lawyer Simon Clarke, the Border Force was persuaded to reduce the penalty by nearly 70%.

WELCOME TO SMITH BOWYER CLARKE ROAD TRANSPORT LAWYERS

Our UK and European lawyers specialise in assisting Dutch, Belgian and other Road Transport hauliers and drivers with all road transport law matters, solving problems and getting results.

We know that when things go wrong in the UK for you or your business it can be difficult to get clear advice. Whatever your road transport problems, our experienced and specialist lawyers can give you straightforward, practical advice and assistance - fast.

HAULIERS FACING THIRD SUMMER OF MIGRANT CHAOS AT CHANNEL PORTS

Drivers crossing to the UK through the channel ports of Calais, Coquelles and Dunkirk have reported a disturbing increase in the number of attacks by migrants trying to access their vehicles. Whilst some had hoped that the dispersal of the "Jungle" camp in October 2016 would see an end to the violence, the reality appears very different.

"Drivers and hauliers are in a near impossible position"

Following widely publicized reports of migrants throwing rocks at the windscreens of UK-bound trucks, industry bodies including the Road Haulage and Freight Transport Associations have called on the governments of both France and Britain to take concerted action to prevent another summer of mayhem.

Civil Penalty scheme "not fit for purpose"

Unsurprisingly, concerns continue to be raised over whether the controversial Civil Penalties for Clandestine Entrants scheme is still fit for purpose. Martin Smith of Smith Bowyer Clarke Road Transport Lawyers believes that the scheme is outdated in the modern era: "The Civil Penalty Scheme was devised in the late 1990s, long before the migrant crisis and the problems around Calais and Dunkirk" he says. "The UK government needs to recognize that drivers and hauliers are in a near impossible position."





So what should you do if you receive a civil penalty?

“The key thing is not to waste time”, says Martin. “Strict time limits apply to when you can lodge an objection. If left too late, you will lose your opportunity.” “That said, we have an extremely high success rate in reducing or cancelling penalties on behalf of our European clients. We regularly succeed in reducing penalties from many thousands of pounds to less than a hundred. Reductions of over 90% are not uncommon.”

At Smith Bowyer Clarke, we offer fixed fees to challenge civil penalties. For more information, speak to one of our lawyers today.

WHERE IS MY TRUCK?

When something unexpected happens to one of your trucks in the UK, you need an urgent response and urgent answers. Our road transport lawyers provide a 24/7, nationwide service, locating and reclaiming vehicles that run into problems in the UK. In an emergency we can even arrange for security for the truck and its load and a driver to collect the truck and deliver it for you.

Our investigations are fast-moving and detailed. We will keep you updated of all developments as our investigations progress. If the UK authorities are refusing to release a truck or a driver, our lawyers can often secure that release, or can advise on what we can do to challenge the refusal in the courts.

CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Criminal law in the UK can often appear confusing, particularly if you are not a UK citizen. Our lawyers regularly represent European nationals before the UK criminal courts for all serious criminal offences.

If you or one of your drivers is under investigation by the police or other UK authority, we can arrange for a lawyer to help you with your interview at a police station or elsewhere.

We are also experts in the conduct of court proceedings, from the smallest offence up to the highest courts in the land. Whatever the offence our lawyers can help.

HOW MUCH?

We make no charges for initial enquiries – ask your questions for no charge, our lawyers our lawyers are always on hand help 24/7.

Our fee structures are open and transparent and we will always explain the costs involved before starting any work. We never impose any charges without your agreement.

Seized Truck Recovered from UK Customs in Record Time

A large Belgian haulage operator contacted our emergency ‘Locate & Recover’ team after one of their trucks was unexpectedly seized by UK customs. With our contacts and investigators, our transport lawyers were able to locate the vehicle and recover the trailer and load within 24-hours. The tractor was returned a short time later without penalty.



UK WEBSITE:

www.smithbowyerclarke.co.uk

DUTCH / BELGIAN WEBSITE:

www.smithbowyerclarke.nl