



## Office of the Traffic Commissioner

(Traffic Commissioner Press Notice – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Originally by email)

### **Indefinite disqualification for Cocker mouth transport manager after multiple emissions cheat devices fitted to commercial vehicles**

- Company arranged for fitting of emulator devices on up to 16 vehicles
- Director and transport manager Eric Nicholson conducted himself in a “wholly disreputable manner”
- Firm to lose licence in May and be disqualified from operating vehicles for five years

A transport manager who admitted AdBlue cheat devices had been fitted to multiple vehicles on his instructions has been banned from the industry indefinitely.

Eric Nicholson, who is also a director of Cocker mouth transport firm EW & PA Nicholson Limited, said he’d made the biggest mistake of his life in arranging for someone to fit the devices to his firm’s vehicles.

Mr Nicholson’s actions led industry regulator, Simon Evans, to disqualify him indefinitely from acting as a transport manager – a key role in the haulage industry. Mr Nicholson was also banned from holding or obtaining a licence to operate commercial vehicles for five years.

In a written decision issued after a public inquiry last month, the Traffic Commissioner for the North West of England said this was as serious a case of the deployment of AdBlue emulators as he had come across so far.

“The extent of usage in terms of the number of vehicles to which devices have been fitted, coupled with the length of time that the operator was prepared for this state of affairs to continue is alarming.

“It is manifestly the case that Eric Nicholson has conducted himself in a wholly disreputable manner, showing disdain for the regime.

“The loss of his repute as a transport manager is accepted as being beyond any argument.”

#### **Damien Currie**

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