

John's* story

IAM RoadSmart drink drive case studies

It was around midnight I was breathalysed. I'd been out with friends earlier in the evening for a curry. We'd had a few beers. The conversation got a bit heated and I went home in a taxi. The topic of debate? My wife, who had recently left me after 30 years of marriage, with no warning and an empty bank account.

I arrived home to a pile of utility bills on the mat. If I'm honest, I lost my temper and drove over to her parents to speak to her. I sat in the car and downed a few beers – Dutch courage – before I went up to the front door. My knock was answered by her stepfather, who refused to let me speak to her. We argued on the doorstep and the police were called. They asked if I'd driven there and despite not being at the wheel at the time, I was arrested for being over the limit.

Financially it's been crippling. I'm a haulage contractor owner driver and have driven heavy goods vehicles since 1985 without any points on my licence. I've had to remortgage the house, which was nearly paid off. While it gave me enough to get through the ban and carry on with business it'll take another 13 years to pay off. I feel it's set me back 10 years in my life. While I get my car licence back soon, it's unclear whether I'll receive my HGV licence as easily.

"Life becomes so difficult for half an hour of madness."

All I can say is just don't do it. If you've had an argument pick up the phone, or get someone to come round. It's only when it's happened you really think about what you're going to do now. Life becomes so difficult for half an hour of madness.

