

UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA
COURSEWORK REASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT

Module Code: LAWS591

Module Title: Lawyering in a Digital Age

Tutor: Kieron Metcalf

Title of the item of work: Assessment CW1

Wordage: 10 minutes

New Horizons (NH) is a leading manufacturer of self-driving autonomous vehicles and using sophisticated algorithms and artificial intelligence. The technology is based on sixteen cameras and sensors that allow the vehicle to read the conditions of the road, including the movement of other vehicles on the road.

These technologically advanced vehicles are capable of performing high-precision work to assist humans in most aspects of driving. This includes the new autopilot functions which are designed to assist drivers with the most burdensome parts of driving. The features include the ability for your car to steer, accelerate and brake automatically. Using twelve ultrasonic sensors and twelve 180-degree cameras, the AI is able to match the speed and traffic conditions without driver input.

Using these research outputs and continuous evaluations of their design for improved future work, NH is capable of designing entities which are capable of a strict code of conduct. These include: (1) to ensure that any action taken or decision made by the entities are only in protection of their clients and public and (2) to exercise their ability to continuous learn patterns and behaviours of users they are working for to adapt and evolve.

In 2019, NH contracted with Mr. and Mrs. Holmes for the services of one of its vehicles. The contract was for an initial period of 12 months. In return, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes were required to ensure that the car was kept in good condition in order to prevent any damage that could affect its functions. The car must have also been insured appropriately as part of the lease deal. The Homes family purchased a fully comprehensive insurance policy with Futuristic Insurance Brokers.

When on their way to the supermarket to pick up the weekly shop, in early 2020, Mr. and Mrs. Homes were in a road traffic collision. Whilst on the way they had got into a heated argument about the colour of a rare species of bird which Mr. Holmes had spotted whilst the car was on autopilot. Due to the argument Mr Holmes. Had not spotted the onboard computer alerting him to take control in order to avoid a collision between a stationary object on the road and a parked vehicle on the side of the road. The vehicle ran made the decision to run into the parked vehicle as it could not identify the object in the middle of the road. The object was a large cardboard box.

The collision caused a lot of damage to the parked vehicle and the Holmes NH vehicle. They made a claim under their insurance to pay for the damage caused. Due to the honesty of the Homes family they disclosed the full incident to the insurance. A dispute ensued and the FIB argued that they should not have to pay for the family's negligence.

The Court of first instance handed down a verdict that FIB would be fully liable under the *Automated and Electric Vehicle Act 2018*.

Instructions: You will be representing the Futuristic Insurance Brokers in this matter. You believe that the Court of first instance misapplied the law. An appeal has been put before the Court of Appeal (Civil Division). You have no more than 10 minutes to make your argument.

SUBMISSION DATE AS PER STUDENT PORTAL

(please tick as appropriate but must be completed)

To be submitted by **4:00 PM** on **12/08/2022** in accordance with instructions given by the course team. If you are posting your course work the receipt of postage must be by date and time of submission, you may be asked to present this.

To be submitted through the Virtual Learning Environment (eg. Blackboard / Pebblepad etc.) in pdf format, or in person/by RECORDED DELIVERY to the Programme Administration at the **Fusehill Street Campus** of the University of Cumbria.