There are various situations in my life in which I have behaved unethically. It is difficult to give specific situations, as I seem to convince myself that I took the right actions… and unless someone else calls me out or I reflect on the situation, I will not realise that I have behaved unethically.

General situations in which I have been unethical.

When queueing up. I have on many occasions joined up queues mid-queue rather than at the back of the queue. Especially while driving! Here my behaviour has been purely selfish. The only important factor in my decision making was how much time I am likely to save.

When a homeless person is begging. I tend to give or not give something depending on a subconscious decision of whether the person is really in need or not. I frequently think back just after this decision and usually decide that my decision was unethical because I did not consider whether the person was in need or their point of view.

The Elements which I failed to adequately meet:

Point of view – in both situations I looked only at my point of view. In the first situation, I might consider that other people and road users also need to save time, perhaps their need is even greater than mine! In the second situation, having not been in a position of being homeless, I did not consider the other persons point of view.

Assumptions – In the first instance, I have not made any assumptions about the needs of others. In fact, I have assumed that my needs are more important than others. In the second instance, I have assumed that the person does not need help without validating this with any evidence.

Information – In both instances I did not seek out information that would allow me to make a conscious decision. Instead, I have come to a conclusion without considering what information I would need and where I might get that information.