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‘Selfie’ Driver Jailed



A driver who paralysed his passenger in a car crash while "showing off" and then took selfies with him as he lay bloodied in the wreckage has been jailed.

Tom Johnson, 21, decided to take his 27-year-old passenger along a known bumpy road in Cambridgeshire and to film the journey on his phone, but lost control of his white Toyota Yaris and hit a tree at about 61mph. Afterwards, Johnson used his phone to "take selfies of himself and his passenger, who was trapped and covered in blood", Cambridgeshire Police said. His passenger was left paralysed from the chest down and requires round-the-clock care.

Johnson, of Lophams Close, Haverhill, was sentenced to 18 months in prison at Cambridge Crown Court on Friday, police said. He had admitted causing injury by dangerous driving. The pair had left a pub in Upware on April 23 last year and Johnson drove them along Great Drove on the way back to Haverhill. The court heard how Johnson decided to record the journey back from a pub in an attempt to "show off" and share it with his friends. However, Johnson hit a bump and crashed.

PC Leigh Fenton said: "Johnson chose to take that road for the excitement and thrill and in an attempt to show off to his friends. "The speeds set on any road are an absolute maximum and as a driver, the onus is on you to drive at a speed which is safe for the road and the conditions. "Johnson's passenger now lives with first-hand proof of how a vehicle can turn into a lethal weapon when in the wrong hands." Johnson was also disqualified from driving for three years and will undergo an extended re-test.