

# PRIVATE HIRE NEWS

The news magazine of the Licensed Private Hire Car Association  
incorporating the London Private Hire Car Association



Welcome to edition 47 of **Private Hire News**. This edition features heavily on our response to the **Government's** review of its **Best Practice Guidance for Taxi and Private Hire Licensing**, please read it.

In 2005 we responded to the very first set of guidance and some of our thoughts were taken on board, however *a lot of work needs to be completed* in many areas and *much remains to be done* to get the 'joined up regulations' and 'sensible operating conditions' that we need for our industry.

The fact that this guidance is up for review fairly quickly shows that it needs to be updated and in our view, as we said in 2005, it needs to reflect the parameters of the **Better Regulations Task Force**. It also needs to take into consideration that *technology has moved on* and so has the need to be *environmentally friendly*.

The LPHCA sees the DfT's '**Best Practice Guidance**' as very helpful but a lot of that guidance needs to become '**Government Policy**' for the proper development and maintenance of **Taxi & Private Hire** as *integral modes of Public Transport* in the United Kingdom.

We have great examples of '**Best Practice**' being followed in some **Local Authorities** yet we still see inadequate and inconsistent implementation of the guidance in others.

The **Travelling Public, Tourists and Drivers** remain *totally confused* by the 'patchwork quilt' of regulations across the U.K. for **Taxi and Private Hire**.

Of the things mentioned in the revised draft of the guidance, there are many of *extreme importance* to the LPHCA including **Medical Requirements, CRB Checks** and **Environmental** considerations.

This edition of the magazine covers our response in depth and much of what is within our response will form a great deal of our strategy and policy going forward. Thanks to **Members** for your input.

The '**one rule on this side of the road**', '**one rule on the other**' has no place in the *connectivity of our transport system* and it is simply quite potty that there are **350 plus Local Regulators** all doing their own thing in **England and Wales**. Thank goodness those who advocated all the **London Boroughs** regulating us independently were not listened to when the **98 Act** for **London** was being put together.

Another important **Department for Transport (DfT) Consultation on Drivers Hours** is out and just as we were going to press the subject was getting a lot of media attention.

The **Association** did interviews on the **LBC and Five Live Radio Stations** and spoke to many sections of the media at length.

The **BBC's Five Live Radio** interview also featured **Chair of the Government's Transport Select Committee's – Louise Ellman MP**, in the debate, which followed the death of a young man, where a **Taxi Driver** had apparently done a long shift.

Some groups, who appear to have no understanding of our industry and how it works, were seeking mandatory breaks after 2 hours. Our view was similar to **Louise Ellman's** – let's establish if there is a problem before deciding, what if anything needs to be done. Furthermore, there is a live **DfT Consultation on Drivers Hours** out, so let's also see *what that reveals*.

We have issued a press release, which is published in this edition of **Private Hire News**.

As well as the live consultations, **September and October** will be very busy months for the LPHCA. Probably by the time we publish we will have already had the **Associations** first '**Golf Day**', which has kindly been put together by **Mick Sullivan** of **Crawfords & Wyndhams** and **Phil Alexander** of **Checkers Transport**, ably assisted by **Jules** his P.A.

These '*two industry stalwarts*' have kindly committed to this fund raiser and all of us at the LPHCA are very grateful for this wonderful gesture. Extra funds are always welcomed but just as important is the fantastic bonds that are being developed between **Members** and **Supporters** of the **Association**. *So many, many thanks to everyone involved*.

By Mid-September we will have completed meetings with the **PCO, the Department for Transport, TOCU, the Olympic Delivery Authority** and **Croner**, our **Member's 'Free Business Support Helpline'** providers, which we feature news of in this edition. A **Platinum Member's** meeting will have also taken place to discuss strategy and ongoing campaigns.

Towards the end of the month we will be attending **Drive 09 the Professional Drivers Event** weekend, where we will have a stand at the **Transport Research Laboratory** facilities at **Wokingham**. Soon after that, we will be meeting the new **PCO Director of Taxi & Private Hire – John Mason** who replaces **Ed Thompson** who is moving within **Transport for London**.

The last day of September we will be at **SGS at Hanworth** who will be doing a presentation about their **Woolwich Site**, which will be disrupted as a result of **Crossrail** works.

Straight into October and our **AGM & Road Show on Thursday 8th October** will be upon us at the wonderful **Marriott Hotel Heathrow**. Many said this was the 'best event' we have ever done so we look forward to another full house and seeing you all there.

As always this edition looks at many topics, including '**Duty of Care**', progress on '**Bus Lanes**', '**Rout the Tout**', the ever increasing '**Membership Benefits**' and the ever improving **Association's** website **WWW.LPHCA.CO.UK**. Please keep your feedback, support and encouragement coming, the team really appreciate it and we will hopefully see many of you at the **AGM & Road Show**.

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Chairman

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