

Vetting and Barring Scheme Announcement

The Government announced on Tuesday 15 June 2010 their intention to remodel the controversial **Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS)**, in their words 'back to proportionate, commonsense levels'.

As a result, the **ISA-registration stage of the scheme has been stopped and therefore will not launch on 26 July 2010 as planned.**

Although the full details and scope of this remodel are still to be finalised it will be business as usual for the **Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)**.

The elements of the **VBS** put in place back in October 2009 continue; and existing requirements concerning the **CRB** will remain in place and those entitled to such checks can continue to apply for them.

As a result of **ISA**-registration being stopped, the **CRB** has had to consider the impact on its application process.

The **CRB** has recently provided Registered Bodies with an initial stock of new (**purple**) application forms in readiness for the planned launch of the **ISA**-registration phase in July and although this phase of the **VBS** has now been halted the **CRB** will still launch the new application form on 26 July 2010 as originally planned.

The **CRB** hopes that by introducing the new form as planned, it will reduce inconvenience during this period. In order to process applications the **CRB** will extract and ignore those parts of the new application form which capture **ISA** registration requirements and use only those data fields which are required to process a **CRB** check.

The **LPHCA** is delighted that the new government has acted so promptly in reviewing the **VBS**, which we had recently expressed our concerns in person to the **Department for Transport (DfT)** and **TfL** a few weeks ago.

We said last year when responding to the (**DfT's Best Practice Guidance**) that we have had dialogue with the **Department** on the **Independent Safeguarding Authority** requirements and more dialogue is sought.

It is our view that **Private Hire Vehicle Drivers** can 'at any time' be required to transport the **young**, the **elderly** and the **vulnerable** and for this reason a review needs to urgently take place.

Heathrow pick up, drop off, returning and parking policy

LHR Express's Ian Dickenson has been in touch with us regarding **Heathrow** pick up, drop off, returning and parking policy, which is subject to changes that could make life very difficult for **LPHCA Member's** and their **Drivers**.

We are in contact with the **British Airport Authority (BAA) Senior Management** and we will send an **E-Alert** to **LPHCA Members** with more information as soon as we have it in our possession.

Credit Crunch hitting Vehicle Suppliers

Several industry **Vehicle Suppliers** and **LPHCA Members** have informed us that the current banking system is preventing drivers from getting finance for new vehicles.

The **LPHCA** will be taking this up with government, as new vehicles not reaching the taxi and private hire sector, is a retrograde, negative problem in every aspect.

Night Club Visit Success

LPHCA Members were kindly hosted by **Philip Alexander** and his staff at **London's famous Embassy Club** last month (in the afternoon unfortunately) where we met representatives from the **City & Metropolitan Police, Westminster City Council, City of London Council** and the **TfL Taxi and Private Hire Directorate**.

Philip kindly provided the facilities and food, which was very much appreciated.

A brief tour of the club, inside and out illustrated the realities of operating a licensed private hire company from such premises.

LPHCA Members from the group will reconvene following the positive and frank discussions held.

Those **LPHCA Members** unfortunate enough to miss the special meeting at the club will soon have the opportunity to join many of us at a social fundraiser that **Philip** and the **Platinum Event & Entertainment Committee** are organising in the late autumn period.

More details about the nightclub debate are in the 'members only' area of the website.

Motorcycles in Bus Lanes trial

Motorcyclists in London will be permitted to use the Capital's red route bus lanes under a further '**Motorcycles in Bus Lanes**' trial that has been announced by the Mayor and TfL.

A report into the current trial, examined the **418 Transport for London Road Network (TLRN)** bus lanes. It found that fears of an increase in cyclist collisions with motorcyclists were unfounded, that there was a fall in the cyclist collision rate across trial bus lanes and the control lanes, with a smaller decrease in the trial lanes and there were no fatal accidents over the period of the trial.

Mayor of London, **Boris Johnson**, said: "Motorcyclists have made a consistent case to be able to use TfL's bus lanes, and the initial trial has shown some positive results. The chaos that was predicted by some doomsayers has clearly not materialized."

This bodes well for **Private Hire in Bus Lanes**.



The **LPHCA** will be hosting its **Annual General Meeting** in style again this year at the popular **London Marriott Heathrow** on **Thursday 14th October 2010**