

# GMB MEET WITH TOP COUNCIL CHIEF

## Chaos Ruled

Chaos ruled as 500 drivers tried to cram into a room that only accommodated 40 - The drivers are angry because the authority proposes to introduce new rules effectively reducing the age of cars that can be used for private hire and hackney use.

To pass, the car must be in exceptional condition. The dictionary says exceptional means 'very unusual or outstandingly good'. If the dictionary meaning is followed, how many cars will pass the test? This is introducing the 6 year rule by the back door.

As a result of the chaos on Monday, Javaid Akhtar and Bill Chard, accompanied by representatives of the hackney associations, met with Stuart Turnock - Chief Officer, Legal, Licensing and Registration Services, Leeds City Council in Leeds on Friday 5th June 2009, to discuss a number of important issues including arrangements for the 3rd June meeting and its cancellation, consultation on age criteria, late renewal policy, BTech, health checks and future relations with the trade.

The first item to be discussed was the question posed by your representatives, 'Why did you book a room for 40 people when you invited 6,000?' Following two hours of in depth discussions, Stuart Turnock promised to supply an in depth reply in letter form within the week.

We shall keep you informed of any developments.

## YOUR CONTACTS

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## The Committee

Aurangzeb Qabal, secretary of the Leeds Private Hire Association said: "Some of the buses in Leeds are 25 years old and they are carrying 52 people. There is a two-tier system. It seems that in recent years more and more unnecessary local legislation has been introduced forcing higher costs and bureaucracy on to the drivers in Leeds."

Javaid Akhtar, president, said: "The time has come to fight back, for the very first time both private hire and hackney are prepared to stand together on common issues. We will do whatever we have to do to help introduce a fair system for the trade in Leeds."

## Join Now Or Lose Out

From July 1st new members who join the GMB will not be supported with existing problems. When we created the Leeds Private Hire Association we realised that because it was a new section of the GMB that it would be necessary to process problems that drivers already had because they had not been given the opportunity to join the union.

That was in February and so 3 months on, hundreds of drivers have joined and 30 to 40 of them have received representation either from the GMB or from the GMB solicitors, Thompsons.

Where a driver is represented in court this would normally cost over £1,500 in legal fees. It is not fair to existing members, some who have been paying their contributions since February, to give the same service to members who join only when they have a problem. If you're not a member then please complete the form overleaf.

## Radio HumFM 97.9

The GMB is proud to sponsor Radio Hum FM part of the community.

Please find enclosed GMB application forms - encourage your fellow drivers to join before 1st July



contact: Bill Chard 0845 337 7777 email: bill.chard@gmb.org.uk visit: www.gmbpdb.org.uk

**JOIN GMB ONLINE NOW: [www.gmb.org.uk](http://www.gmb.org.uk)**