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This report may be of interest to: All Members

DANGEROUS OCCURRENCE LOG BOOKS

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the Panel's approval to introduce a new clause into Operators terms and Conditions that ensure they maintain a Dangerous Occurrence Log Book that details all attacks or dangerous situations reported by drivers.

2. Summary

- 2.1 There is growing concern within the trade regarding the number of potentially dangerous incidents being experienced by drivers, particularly those on the night circuits.
- 2.2 The objective is to make it compulsory for operators to maintain a record of all reported incidents by drivers. The log book should identify who had been attacked, at what time, where it occurred, the nature of the attack and whether the police had been contacted.
- 2.3 The details will be collated and sent to the Licensing Team who will maintain a central database of all such reported incidents which will assist in recording trends, potential dangerous locations and times etc.

3. **Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the introduction of the amendment of terms and conditions to include the compulsory maintenance of a Dangerous Incident log book by operators and to ensure that all records are sent to Licensing Team on a regular basis, be approved.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 In recent months there has been growing concern about the number of perceived attacks on drivers and in particular the seriousness of their nature. The concerns came to a head in late 1999 when a driver was kidnapped at gunpoint and taken to Luton where his attackers fled. Two other alleged attacks of a similar nature followed soon after. Whilst the alleged assailants have been apprehended such incidents do highlight the potential danger many drivers face.
- 4.2 The exact seriousness of the problem is, however, difficult to quantify because there is no system in place to monitor and record attacks therefore the impression that the situation is worsening is based as much on perception as fact.
- 4.3 Operators were sent a letter in January of this year asking them voluntarily to maintain a detailed log of all reported incidents and for these to be passed on a monthly basis to Vehicle Licensing who would record them and produce a database which would:
- (a) Provide detailed information of the severity of the problem
 - (b) Identify the nature and type of attacks
 - (c) Identify potential areas where attacks are most frequent.
 - (d) Assist the police in following up any enquiries.
- 4.4 At the time of writing there has been no response to the voluntary request and no information has been provided by operators, therefore it is intended that the recording of such information be a condition of the granting of an Operators Licence.
- 4.5 The importance of such information in such a fragmented trade as Private Hire is important in establishing a co-ordinated approach to the issue, which will assist in addressing the problem.

5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 The Council is limited in what they can do to assist in ensuring drivers safety; indeed their first consideration is ensuring the public's safety. They can, however, through license conditions and collection of data, ensure information is available to aid safety monitoring.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

None

6.2 Equalities

None

6.3 Financial

None

6.4 Legal

Current conditions stipulate that eight weeks notice has to be provided before any changes in terms and conditions are enforced

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

None

6.6 Cultural

None

7. **Conclusions**

- 7.1 The Council when issuing licences have the right to introduce terms and conditions that are deemed reasonable. Given the nature of work undertaken by drivers and the perceived increase in risk, it is not unreasonable to request that operators maintain records aimed at improving the safety of drivers within their circuit.

Background Papers : None