

Steven Greenhalgh

Deputy Mayor of London

03-12-14

Dear Mr. Greenhalgh,

Re Police Training syllabus, Hendon Police College

The GMB are one of the largest unions representing the Private Hire and Professional Drivers in London and indeed the rest of the country.

It has come to our attention that training in relation to Taxi and Private Hire law has been removed from the Police Training Syllabus at Hendon. Earlier this year our Commercial Section Conference passed a motion calling on GMB to campaign for it to be re-introduced, hence my reason for writing.

I understand this comes under your remit and would urge you on behalf of our membership to re-consider your position as this could leave Police Officers being deficient in knowledge allowing individual's to break the law and effectively get away with it due to a lack of knowledge on the officers part as to whether a crime has been committed.

Our members in the trade face daily risks both verbal and especially physical and GMB want to work with the relevant authorities to eliminate such risks. Our members risk harm to their own person and property with robberies, 'Bilking' (making off without payment) and physical assault commonplace. We are concerned at suggestions from some quarters that such occurrences are civil matters.

It is our belief that with sufficient training officers would be able to assist in eliminating such risks and indeed be pro-active in deterring such occurrences in the first place.

Another consideration is the cost to the public purse as obviously prevention is better than treatment and cure.

I look forward to due consideration being made to our requests and our representatives from the trade and I will be more than happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Clarke

National Officer