

private hire operator's licence to five years.

Again there are significant concerns. This should be left for local determination. We strongly believe that locally elected members should be allowed to determine local conditions / standards etc. including the duration / term of a licence and can see no reason to move away from the current legislative position. If there were to be a perceived need the currently proposed clause appears badly drafted and in need of amendment.

**Section 10** – proposes changes to allow private hire operators to sub contract bookings to other operators licensed in a different district (Authority)

Although it is understood that businesses do cross Authority borders and this amendment may well be intended to aid business growth. The concern is that this will become confusing for the members of the public.

Licensing/Enforcement Officers would have no clear line of enquiry for complaints made against drivers of companies not based in their particular jurisdictions. In the event of complaints and enquiries who is responsible for the work (job) carried out? Would this be the company/person taking the original booking or the company / person who undertook the journey / job? Who would be the legal owner of that work?

We once again ask you to oppose these amendments when the time comes There is a Westminster Debate on 29th April at 2.30 pm. Your support would be very much appreciated not only by we the requestors but also by the majority of your constituents who would, we are sure wish to have confidence in the bona fide licensed trades members.

There is currently legislation in place that covers these areas already, this current legislation has been subject of a comprehensive review by the Law Commission on behalf of the Government and the full report and recommendations are due to be published in May 2014.

There does not see any clear reason why these three clauses are so vitally important that they need to be taken in isolation ahead of the wholesale proposals imminently due from the Law Commission. These clauses appear to have been rushed and at best are ill thought out.

It is strongly felt that they should not be enacted and that the best course of action should be refer these matters for inclusion in the ongoing comprehensive Law Commission Review currently under way and which is due to report in May 2014, less than one month away.

Yours sincerely,