

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES FOR CAB OFFENCES

by Dave Cohen

And how you can protect yourself... A new Bill received Royal Assent on July 22nd, 2008 and will result in any contravention of the 1934 London Cab Order or Hackney Carriage offences carrying a Fixed Penalty Notice. The outcome could also result in Penalty Points being incurred and added to your licence. If you do not belong to a trade organisation you run the risk of suspension or revocation of your Cab Driver's licence or even those Penalty Points could you take you closer to losing your DVLA licence and your livelihood.

Now drivers have an opportunity to join a scheme that will cover the above and in addition any motoring offences incurred while working as a licensed taxi driver.



This does not include Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) for parking offences. The cost of the scheme will be around £6 per month and every member joining will have cover for up to £25,000 for legal expenses. Membership will also include a 24/7 help and advice line.

the scheme. LHS have a wealth of experience in Hackney Carriage and motoring legislation and will be on hand to advise you and to protect your interests. Ask any cab driver who has lost his licence how difficult life can become. This is an opportunity to gain complete peace of mind for approximately 20p a day.

Alan Fleming, former Chairman of the London Cab Drivers Club will be providing general advice and support to members should they require representation at the PCO. Alan, who has now resigned from the LCDC, has successfully represented two DAC drivers.

If you would like this invaluable legal protection for your licences, contact either Ian Lewis or Dee Scott at Lewis Hymanson Small LLP and they will send you all the relevant information. You can telephone them on 0161 827 1808 or write to them at:

Lewis Hymanson Small LLP
South Central
11 Peter Street
Manchester M2 5QR

Lewis Hymanson Small LLP have offices in Royal Exchange Avenue, London but their Manchester office has all the details relating to

TRAFFIC SIGNS IN BRITAIN

Transport Minister Rosie Winterton is asking motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, highway authorities and road organisations who are keen to have a say in how our streets will look in the future, to take part in the biggest review of British road signs for 40 years. The review will ensure that traffic signs keep pace with the latest technology, help to cut congestion and emissions and keep traffic moving safely and efficiently without cluttering our streets.

The review's aims include:

- * To consider new powers to reduce street clutter - and ensure out of date signs are removed
- * Look at using new traffic sign technologies that can provide new ways of managing traffic flow
- * Provide better road information - such as up-to-date travel news - to give motorists informed choices about their journeys
- * Demonstrate how effective signing can provide safer roads and reduce accidents
- * Improve road users' understanding of traffic signs and signals.

Rosie Winterton said: "Road conditions have changed dramatically over the years – and road signs need to keep pace with that change to provide the best information possible to all road users. It is vital we help motorists, cyclists and pedestrians understand how to use our roads - improving road safety and helping reduce congestion and CO2 - without cluttering our streets with unnecessary signs."

Road users, highway authorities and organisations interested in streetscape will play a key role in the steering group leading the review. AA President Edmund King said: "Clear, concise, relevant road signs help reduce congestion, CO2, frustration and accidents. Confusing signs do the opposite so we welcome a root and branch review of the UK's traffic signing system and will seek the views of AA members to help the Department for Transport come up with signs fit for the 21 Century."

TAXI AUCTION HELD IN BIRMINGHAM

Blackhorse Finance put over a hundred LTI taxis into auction in Birmingham recently through British Car Auctions (BCA). The site, which is situated only minutes from the M6, was well attended following a good advertising campaign throughout the taxi trade. The one hundred plus cabs were an impressive sight in the BCA car pound and most were in excellent condition, some being finance repossessions but most thought to be ex preference deal cabs. With the sale including a large entry of TX II models, a 1998 TX I, a 2007-registered TX4 that had covered just a few thousand miles, there was plenty of choice for buyers on the day. BCA spokesman Tim Naylor said: "These special London Taxi Auction Events always create a lot of interest from the licensed cab trade and taxi dealers. This sale offered buyers a great opportunity to bid on a good selection of well-prepared and properly presented Black Cabs."

One London fleet proprietor who attended the sale told Taxi Globe: "Bids were available through the internet although most went to buyers at the BCA site. Cabs were available for inspection from 9.30am with the sale beginning at 12.30. A few 'London Faces' could be seen amongst the crowd but most seemed to be owner drivers from the Midlands. There were some great bargains to be had and equally I saw some cabs sold at more than I had bought the same age cab for at dealerships... maybe some people just get carried away with the excitement of the auction. Some non-runners went under the hammer at very reasonable prices and some brightly coloured cabs reached 2-3K less than an equivalent black one, which is odd when you think for £500 they could have been re-sprayed black."