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DND Transport Services Ltd.
Tel 01707 272305

PRINTERS

Cumbrian Newsprint, Cumbria

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DEMOS HELD AT THE PCO

London's taxi trade was last astounded when news headlines carried the story of a convicted killer studying the KoL. A demo took place outside the PCO on 4th September, with another on 10th September, protesting against the paranoid schizophrenic killer being allowed to study to become a black-cab driver. He had strangled his wife in 2000 and was jailed indefinitely for manslaughter in 2001. Detained under the Mental Health Act, he was released after the parole board assessed he was no longer a risk to society, which left him free to pursue work.



The demonstrations were supported by all the main trade bodies, the LTDA, The LCDC, Unite the Union and the RMT.



Grant Davis, chairman of the London Cab Drivers Club said: "I believe this will affect the trust we have built up over the hundreds of years serving the London public." Bob Crow, general secretary of the RMT, said taxi drivers were rightly appalled at this shocking news. "This situation should never have been allowed to get this far and that's a massive failure of the procedures," he said.

Jeroen Weimar, TfL's Chief Operating Officer for Enforcement and Compliance, has announced that an independent review is taking place, which is being carried out by and former senior managers from the PCO who have since retired. He said: "Transport for London (TfL) spokesperson said: "We fully recognise this is an issue of concern and passenger safety is always our first priority. As we have made clear this matter has been referred to an independent review.



John Kennedy talks to LBC

"All applicants with a previous criminal conviction are subjected to rigorous checks and we carefully examine their criminal history and



medical factors before any decision is made to ensure they are suitable to be a taxi driver. In this case we received reports from all of the relevant authorities and evidence from clinicians and the decision was based on that evidence."



RMT Statement on PCO Demo by Eddie Lambert

As branch chair of RMT Taxis London, I would like to thank the hundreds of drivers who supported our drive-in and picket at the PCO on 4th September on foot and with their cabs. This action was called for by working cab drivers in support of the retention of the high standards of the past.

The events leading up to this action were something that hit a raw nerve with the trade. I have no need to comment on the actual events that led up to Friday's action, only to say that the London Hackney Trade does not want to be part of any social experiment. Our passengers' lives and personal comfort when in our care are too valuable for that. We have a world-wide reputation earned over many, many years by thousands and thousands of drivers. This madness from TfL/PCO must STOP. We don't need dragging down to the level of the minicabs, or is this part of a plan to remove our credibility and reputation to make it easier to bring a one-tier service and the lowest common denominator?

Well, as Bob Crow said in the video taken in the feeder park at Heathrow "WE AIN'T ROLLING OVER!" We will fight you every step of the way and we will win because we will have the travelling public with us on this issue. YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET!

