

Dear Sir,

We the undersigned wish to let the council members and yourself know that we are dissatisfied with yourself for making misleading comments relating to the hackney carriage trade , to the members as well as the media, for the following reason whenever any changes are made to our working practices you are claiming to have consulted with the trade which is in fact not true, you speak to four to six members of the trade who only represent there own views as they do not consult with us unaffiliated members of the trade let alone there own membership. We would therefore be grateful if you would desist from this practice forthwith.

Yours sincerely.

101 Signatures of hackney carriage owners  
& drivers.

Dear members,

We are writing to inform yourselves the members of the committee at our dismay as to the way our role in the hackney carriage trade is been portrayed, as you will see a vast number of us have signed the accompanying letter to let you know we disagree with what is been said of us. In the thirteen years I my self have been hackney carriage driving never once has my views been sought as to which direction our trade should be going, as is the case with every one of the people whom have signed our letter to yourselves. Yet the members of this committee as well as the members of the licensing and regulatory committees are been told that consultation has taken place, this is a complete and utter nonsense, for the past 8 months I myself on behalf of my colleagues have been in contact with mr Hasswell and as such have been informing him of this and yet he still insists on saying negotiations have taken place!! .

At this moment in time there are 307 licensed hackney carriage drivers of which we are in fact split into three different sections in reality as there is no cohesion within the trade (which suits the council) as we are all actually individuals with our own personalities whom come under the banner of hackney carriage owners/drivers and the few of us whom are renting the plates.

Presently there are two associations called the ITA and the newly formed Y.H.C.D.A in operation however when the numbers in these are realised then you can see that the trade is in fact been disproportionately represented by these self appointed spokespeople as it stands there numbers as I have been informed are at the present time the ITA has 61 members the YHCDA has 70 when taken into percentage terms these figures equate to this

ITA= 61 = 19.86%

Y.H.C.D.A =70= 22.81%

Total represented = 42.67%

Total Unrepresented = 176= 57.33%

So as you can see when these figures are broken down the majority of the trade are in fact unrepresented and therefore all the decisions that are been made are not in fact strictly speaking with the consent of the trade thus rendering any agreements invalid. As I have already demonstrated on the letter that accompanies this we the trade have 99 signatures which equates to 32.25% of the trade making us the largest % wise majority.

You can reduce even further the percentages of the represented if you cross reference the membership lists that mr Hasswell holds as we have collected a good number of so called represented members signatures who like us the trade are offended by the suggestion as to

the claims that they are represented, we feel that decisions are been made with out our approval and when challenged i.e. the increase to the bank holiday rate fare and a half we were informed that it had been advertised in the York evening press and that we were out of time to object, the people who asked on supposedly our behalf for this increase never asked nor consulted with us the trade !! Yet we had it imposed upon!!Us do you as a committee feel that we as a trade should have to find out about fundemental changes like this through the media?. the council has a website which could be accessed and all relevant information pertaining to the trade could be placed on there as we and mr hasswell agreed 5 months ago was a good starting point to keep the trade informed , it could be utilised to post agendas/ proposals that will help our trade move forward and not let the majority be ruled by the minority as is the case at the moment, how can station taxis with 37 shareholders = 12.05% of the trade be allowed with the consent of the council be the dominant force in the trade ? The reason is in truth they are in fact kow towing to the whims of mr Hasswell for fear of deregulation, a situation that has been well and truly exploited over the years to gain what ever demands have been placed on this trade usually at a cost to ourselves i.e. colour age and so forth nothing is of any benefit to ourselves we have had, our ranks taken away, with ranks resituated which are of no benefit to either the public nor the trade.

The same people will appear before yourselves claiming that they represent the trade but the reality of it is they are representing there own interests which is fine as they entitled to express there opinions /views as we are a democratic society after all but they shouldn't be allowed to try to mislead the committees with the guise of association, as is now, demonstrated by our letter just isn't true. As you can see by the number of signatures they haven't sought our views or there own members which they are portraying themselves as conveying too yourselves.

Yours Sincerely.

See attached