

## Appendix 2 Email from Unite the Union

From: Landau, Paul (Branch Activist) [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: 21 January 2020 10:11

To: Grieve, John < [REDACTED] >

Cc: Akhtar, Vasim (Branch Activist) < [REDACTED] >; Bown, Phil < [REDACTED] >; Rushworth, Darren < [REDACTED] >

Subject: Conviction Criteria

Dear John,

Unite formally requests that the following be made available to all members sitting at the licensing committee on January 28th from 10am, specifically for the chairs attention, Cllr Ben Garner regardless of any meetings that may take place or other.

" Unite formally and unreservedly objects to the listed conviction criteria. It is without doubt the most severe form of punishment that could be handed down by a licensing committee and the City of Leeds itself. It has the potential to put hard working citizens of our city out of work, with no future scope to work in a similar vain in a similar transport anywhere within the WYCA. Members have been told over the past two years that they must obey the recommendations from our Clean Air Zone team with regard to the 'Climate Emergency' and dates set for achieving the goals set by central government. Owner drivers whom have invested tens of thousands of pounds via loans, some secured against their properties, whom under this severe regime could see them forced out of a job, lose their homes, see their credit ratings plummet etc. The ramifications are just too steep to ignore and as councillors you should be acutely aware of this. While we would whole hearted agree that passenger safety is a serious factor, so too is driver welfare and their job satisfaction, something which you should all also be acutely aware of. As a responsible trade union, we cannot nor will we support this in its current guise and for this council to do so, shows just how out of touch members truly are with the hardship faced by every cab driver in this city currently due to unfair competition and a lack of serious enforcement by the Taxi and Private Hire department and its employees. There is no proof that implementing such draconian terms would in fact improve driver attitudes. Indeed such a move would be contrary to UK law as far as the road traffic act 1988 is concerned and the conviction criteria as far as UK law is concerned.

No council should ever be permitted to consider itself above such law of the United Kingdom

Even the Department for Transport in its 'Best Practise' guidance paper comments that no conditions should ever be too onerous. This convictions criteria goes way beyond onerous!

While Unite are fully aware of the safeguarding elements that must be adopted in the light of recent high profile and lesser cases, this attempt to use a council policy to penalise for minor infractions such as 'points escalation', which the UK law sees as one of guidance itself, is beyond comprehension.

Just how councillors could bring themselves to punish hard working owner drivers, that seemingly are no burden on the welfare state and more importantly are 'Self Employed' is also incomprehensible.

Unite will seek all avenues to challenge this decision legally should it continue unfettered or unrevised prior to implementation.

The sheer lack of consultation on this matter, with regard to no open trade forums being called to discuss, nor working groups being entered into, just shows the level of disregard and complete complicit impunity that both the licensing section and councillors see both sides of the Taxi & Private Hire in Leeds.

I make no apologies for the content of this communication, just as Leeds Licensing and councillors make no apologies for their attempt to railroad owner drivers out of a job and into poverty. This is an utter abomination to all reasoned thinking people and should be stopped with immediate effect.

No where or in any other job that has such direct contact with the travelling public or services that the general public rely on such as but not limited to: Bus services, Ambulatory services, Patient transport services, Social Care drivers, LCC Vehicle operatives do such incredulous convictions criterias apply.

Paul Landau

Branch Secretary

Unite the Union

Passenger Transport - Cab Section

NEYH 302/3

Tel: [REDACTED] (8am thru 7pm - Mon thru Fri)

e: [REDACTED]

<http://www.unitetheunion.org>

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