

LTDA Members Group Statement 8/6/20

The General Secretary of the LTDA (Steve McNamara) has told Taxi-Point that a small group of drivers is resisting change to a more democratic position.

This is untrue for the following reasons.

Over 120 drivers signed a formal application to the Financial Conduct Authority. In addition to this, over 300 drivers have signed a petition for the removal of the Council. Neither 120 drivers nor 300 drivers is a small number.

The application that the 120 drivers signed is for the FCA to call a Special Meeting of all of the members in order that all of the members can attend a meeting to hear the truth about what has been going on in the LTDA under the current Council, and have a chance to ask their own questions and express their own views to them. We believe the Council are frightened of this.

The Council are trying to change the LTDA's rules not because they want to get away from a 'show of hands' at a meeting but because they do not want to have to face drivers in person at a meeting, and to answer difficult questions, which they have failed to answer so far.

They are trying to change the democratic process so that they can secure whatever changes to the rules and other decisions they want without ever having to face the members in a meeting.

They are trying to secure this change to the current rules by an illegal process. The law (the current rules) requires a meeting of the members to vote at a meeting on any change to the LTDA's rules. This is a good, normal, healthy and transparent thing to do. But the Council have destroyed the ability for the members to have any voice in the LTDA by

- Suspending the Branches representing 99.3% of the members.
- Changing the rules so that the members can no longer call a special meeting themselves unless 51% of the members sign a requisition for such a meeting, which is virtually impossible.

The General Secretary has consistently characterised our group as small, disruptive, intimidating and threatening. He fails to acknowledge the true number, the fact that we are following due process, and that we are doing so assisted by a law firm known for its expertise in co-operative law.

It is the current Council which is the "small group", who have actually destroyed the democratic processes of the LTDA, and who are now trying to secure their complete control by introducing rule changes by an illegal process and so that members are powerless to do anything at meetings.

Our group is trying to stop this by seeking the intervention of the FCA, who have agreed that we have made out a case for a special meeting, and that meetings of the branches should be called as part of the process.

Members need to understand why the LTDA has lost £4 million in the last 5 years, why Taxi House was sold without member consultation and why elections are being held without proper oversight such that a legitimate candidate has been disqualified from standing.