

Legal and Democratic Services

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FaO Solicitor to the Inquiry

Dated 20 November 2025

Dear Sirs

Southport Inquiry – Update Sefton MBC

On 25 September, Mark Toohey a Principal Licensing Officer for Sefton Council committed to provide an update to the Chair of the Inquiry on the progress of improvements proposed during his evidence. These actions and improvements fell under the following heads:-

Training

Mr Toohey has engaged with other licensing authorities in the Liverpool Combined Authority area and has agreed to lead on standardised training across the region. It has been agreed that this training will include

- Safeguarding obligations
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Borough Lines and trafficking.

It will also address matters where there is a single policy approach across the region such as the requirement to report criminal behaviour.

The next step is to procure an appropriate training provider and Sefton Council's procurement team are assisting in a process of soft market consultation to explore the most appropriate model for delivery of this training and thereafter the training provider.

It is intended that this training will be mandatory for both drivers and operators and be required to be renewed every 3 years.

Licensing Terms and Conditions

The Council are preparing to undertake a consultation on changes to the taxi license fees as part of the unmet demand survey for Hackney Carriages. It is intended that the proposed changes to the licensing conditions, to include as a condition the requirement on drivers and operators to report criminal behaviour, will be incorporated as part of that review.

The consultation is due to commence in January 2026 and be completed in March that year.

Changes to the Licensing terms and conditions will be proposed for adoption in the next municipal year (circa. May 2026)

Mr Poland

Mr Poland has now been interviewed in relation to his conduct as a licensed taxi driver during the incident on 29 July 2024. Mr Poland has indicated a desire to remain a licensed taxi driver and has submitted references to support his position. The council have requested Mr Poland to provide further information to ensure an informed decision will be reached.

Yours faithfully

Chris Moister

Signature

Chief Legal and Democratic Officer
Monitoring Officer
Sefton Council