

**The Station Co-operative**  
77 Booth Lane South  
Northampton  
NN3 3EY

The Northampton Rail Users Group

13 May 2010

Dear Sirs

**Northampton Station – London Midland Railways**

As you are no doubt aware, there have been various difficulties experienced at Northampton Station with London Midland Railways and we are writing to inform you of the latest update which we are concerned will have an adverse impact on customers.

Currently the taxi rank at the Station is serviced by members of the Station Co-operative under a contract with London Midland, allowing black cabs to service the requirements of station customers.

Under the current contract, permits are issued to black cabs to operate from the rank limited to a maximum of 70 cabs, subject of course to space being available on the rank and elsewhere in the station and providing for maximum coverage at peak times. Currently upwards of 30 cabs can be available in the morning, with a reduced number in the afternoon and evening.

It had been proposed by London Midland that the number of permits be reduced to 40, which raises a concern as to whether adequate coverage can be provided at essential and peak times.

We would advise, however, that the latest position with the provision of black cabs is that London Midland is proposing that the current contract be brought to an end, unilaterally and that instead individual permits are issued to black cab drivers. The proposal is that the number of permits issued is unlimited and that therefore any number of cabs may service the station and its customers. On the face of it an improvement.

The individual contracts, however, provide that a maximum of only 10 cabs may occupy any part of the station at any one time. Practically, this provides insufficient coverage for the station and its customers at peak times. Delays will be caused to customers with taxi's not being readily available when needed most, with "feeder" cabs having to circumnavigate the station, often at peak traffic times and thus customers having to wait for cabs to enter the station and be available for hire.

We are of course taking the matter up with London Midland and are seeking legal advice on the validity of their actions, but in the meantime, felt it necessary to draw to your attention the course of action being taken, in view of the effect that it will have on users of the station.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any comments or for any further clarification. We welcome your views on the matter.

Yours faithfully

Allan Payne  
Chairman  
The Station Co-operative