

GMB FORECAST NEW YEAR TRAVEL CHAOS AS MORE CAB STRIKES INEVITABLE UNLESS CHELMSFORD COUNCIL ACTS SOON

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Over the weekend Chelmsford's Hackney Taxis held a strike between 12 midnight and 330 a.m. which was supported by virtually 100% of the local professional drivers. The public too supported the cabbies actions despite being confused at the empty ranks. Naturally much inconvenience was caused, and many parents found themselves acting as cabbies for the night!

Terry Flanagan Branch Secretary of the GMB Professional Drivers Branch said, **"GMB members working as Chelmsford's licensed cabbies regret putting the public through this ordeal. But clearly the responsibility lies squarely at the feet of the Council.**

Many licensed Cabbies now face bankruptcy and the associated problems of house repossession and broken families. GMB member Cabbies will be meeting shortly to consider their options and there is no doubt that more strikes, of longer duration, and the possibility of a complete shut down over the New Year celebrations will be considered. Regretfully last Monday night [23rd Nov] the Chelmsford Councillors again refused to instigate a freeze on issuing new licenses (plates), acting on, GMB believes, erroneous advice from one of council officers. GMB awaits from the Council a detailed legal statement as to what law sustains their argument.

The public should be aware that the Chelmsford Cabbies are in an unenviable position with their entire family environment at risk purely due to a Council acting vindictively and maliciously against them. GMB is of course still available for talks should the Council be interested in preventing what appears as more inevitable Holiday travel chaos."

Ends

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