



PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS

POTENTIAL SCAMS

The Public Carriage Office (PCO) has been contacted by a licensed London operator about a recent approach from a potential customer that was an attempted 'scam'.

This operator had submitted a quote for work via email which is something they frequently do. However, this particular enquiry came from a 'Yahoo' email address from someone claiming to be a US citizen working on a project in the UK but did not supply a contact telephone number, address or company name. The operator received a response accepting their quote with instructions that a cheque for £3000 would be raised by this person's PA in Lincolnshire and the operator was to cash the cheque, take their bit and send the balance onto their clients in the States.

The operator concerned had the presence of mind to make immediate contact with the police who advised them to take no further actions as this was a money laundering scam.

The PCO wishes to advise all London operators to take precautions against this type of approach and would encourage them to report all such incidents directly to their local police.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Stock". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "D" and a more complex, scribbled "Stock".

31 July 2007

Dave Stock
Head of Service Delivery