

The Coroner
11th Floor,
Thomas More Building
Royal Courts of Justice
London
WC2A 2LL

25 February 2019

Direct line: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

Re: Inquest Arising from the deaths in the Westminster terror attack of 22 March 2017

The BVRLA and its members are very aware of the potential to misuse hire vehicles, turning them into instruments that kill and maim innocent people. As a result, the BVRLA and its members have been working closely, and more frequently, with the Department for Transport, counter terrorist and law enforcement organisations as well as policymakers in recent years.

We have increased the amount of counter terrorism training and guidance made available, and we have offered this resource to all vehicle rental and leasing firms, not just those in BVRLA membership. Furthermore, it is available free of charge.

BVRLA and its members have and maintain excellent relations with police and counter terrorist authorities and routinely share data and intelligence. We work as a community of businesses to protect our assets and staff, and to deny fraudsters and extremists opportunities to take advantage of our business services by raising barriers to participation.

With regards to data sharing, it is our policy stance that consideration should be given to introduce enhanced background checks and bulk data sharing. The vehicle rental industry is willing to share bulk data so that the authorities can cross-reference such data against their own crime and terrorist indices. There would, however, need to be protocols and safeguards in place to ensure that personal data is processed in a legally compliant way. Furthermore, we believe considerable resource would need to be allocated to explore any technical solution to integrate external data with internal police and counter terrorism databases.

In December 2018, the Department for Transport launched its [Rental Vehicle Security Scheme](#) which aims to increase counter-terrorism awareness and preparedness across the sector and mitigate the risk of rental vehicles being used as weapons in acts of terror.

The voluntary scheme, which is open to all UK vehicle hire firms offering short-term rental to consumers, has been developed in collaboration with the BVRLA and other key industry partners, and requires participating firms to meet a set of requirements outlined in a 10-point Code of Practice, including a commitment to:

1. Lawfully share data and information with law enforcement
2. Train staff to identify and report suspicious behaviour
3. Appoint a recognised security contact
4. Only accept electronic payment for all or part of the transaction

Although not the mandatory scheme that the BVRLA initially called for, the association believes that the scheme will demonstrate participating firms' commitment to taking security seriously and will help in the fight against terrorism.

Yours faithfully,

Gerry Keaney
Chief Executive