



Chief Coroner

[REDACTED]  
Royal Courts of Justice  
London  
WC2A 2LL

17 December 2019

Direct dial: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir

**Re: Inquests arising from the deaths in the London Bridge and Borough Market terror attack**

The BVRLA recognises it has an important role to play in ensuring its members take all necessary steps to prevent future deaths occurring from terrorism where rental vehicles are used as a weapon. We are saddened by the events that took place at London Bridge and Borough Market in 2017 and offer our condolences to the families who lost loved ones.

The BVRLA and its members have been working with the Department for Transport (DfT) and the law enforcement counter terrorism community to review what processes are in place to prevent vehicles being used as weapons in terrorist attacks and ensure the industry does all it can to protect itself and the wider community.

Significant steps have been taken by the BVRLA to ensure its members adopt a robust security culture across their business that will protect the general public as well as their employees, premises and their assets. We have done this through training, guidance and engagement opportunities. These initiatives have been made available free of charge to anyone involved within our industry.

We welcome the suggestion in the Prevention of Future Deaths report that consideration is given to taking further measures to reduce the risk of rental vehicles being used in terrorist attacks. The report notes that measures to be considered should include (a) introducing a scheme for real-time reporting of rentals and automated checking of the results against lists of SOIs and (b) making the current RVSS scheme mandatory.

**Real-time reporting of rentals**

BVRLA members already carry out robust checks to safeguard their businesses using RISC, the BVRLA's digital risk management tool for rental and leasing companies, and other proprietary systems. The vehicle rental industry is prepared to share data and information that can be utilised by the authorities to prevent crime. Careful consideration needs to be given to the type of system which can communicate with the security services in 'real time' and what information could be usefully shared.

The scaling and costing of such a system needs to be considered and it should not place a disproportionate burden on the rental sector. We will continue to work closely with counter terrorism police, the Home Office and the DfT to look at ways in which information can be shared which will not overwhelm the security services. With around 16.2 million car and van UK rental transactions per annum the security services would need to set out how any information should best

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be received and agree on how this could be processed in a timely manner to reduce the risk of a future attack.

### **A mandatory RVSS**

The BVRLA is delighted to report that we have recently been recognised as an approved authorised partner by the Department for Transport. This means that the BVRLA can now effectively make this a mandatory requirement for our members through the BVRLA's Code of Conduct, which is a condition of membership. Principle 9 requests that members ensure that staff are trained to recognise and report suspicious behaviour, support counter terrorist campaigns and to adhere to the Department for Transport's Rental Vehicle Security Scheme.

The BVRLA monitors adherence with our Code of Conduct via our compliance programme. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 we have included additional criteria within our member audits which specifically monitor awareness, training and compliance against the key principles set out in the scheme.

We are delighted to have been recognised as a trusted partner and will be working hard with members to ensure they have all the training and support necessary to comply with the RVSS and to ensure the benefits of the scheme are fully recognised.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Keane', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerry Keaney  
Chief Executive

### ***Bona-fides BVRLA, the industry and its members***

- Established in 1967, the British Vehicle Rental & Leasing Association (BVRLA) is the UK trade body for companies engaged in vehicle rental and leasing.
- BVRLA membership provides customers with the reassurance that the company they are dealing with adheres to the highest standards of professionalism and fairness.
- The association achieves this by maintaining industry standards and regulatory compliance via its mandatory codes of conduct, inspection programme and conciliation service. To support this work, the BVRLA shares information and promotes best practice through its extensive range of training and events.
- On behalf of its 1000 members, the BVRLA works with governments, public sector agencies, industry associations and key business influencers across a wide range of road transport, environmental, taxation, technology and finance-related issues.
- BVRLA members are responsible for a combined fleet of over five million cars, vans and trucks, supporting around 465,000 jobs and contributing £49bn to the economy each year.

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Chairman: Nina Bell

Chief Executive: Gerry Keaney

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