

ASLEF THSC

SAFETY NOTICE – 01/19



‘HOT’ PROTOCOL

Despite H&S representative’s objections from multiple grades, London Underground introduced a new HOT protocol on London Underground on 3rd December.

The protocol states you must not deem an item as lost property until it has been examined. Further, the protocol also states that you must examine and delve into the item (even forcing open a locked suitcase for example) if you deem it to be ‘non suspicious’.

We believe that this is ‘smoke and mirrors’ and is pushing staff to examine items for the benefit of the service rather than the safety of LU staff and its passengers. Of course if you believe an item is lost property you should hand it over to station staff, but ASLEF’s advice is that if you believe an item is suspicious you should inform Service Control so that an evacuation of the area can be arranged and remove yourself to a place of safety.

You should not be pressured to delve into or break open any bags or suitcases, potentially placing your safety and the safety of others around you at risk if you believe it is unsafe to do so.

The LU guidance leaflet accompanying the new HOT protocol states:

If you are not confident opening the item to examine the contents, then immediately seek assistance from your customer service supervisor/manager or a more experienced colleague.

If at any time there is an attempt to pressurise you into opening a bag, please refer to the above and contact your local H&S rep immediately.

Jason Wyatt 07791 935 874 Mark McMullen 07764 997 412 Julian Vaughan 07593 091 378

Marc Tanner 07876 564 366

ASLEF Trains Health & Safety Council