



Licensed Private Hire Car Association

Inc London Private Hire Car Association
& The Graded Private Hire Companies



Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA

8th May 2006

Dear Ken,

RE: Signage on Private Hire Vehicles

Further to my letter in August last year on signage and your quick response outlining that a consultation exercise was to follow last autumn, I am being pressed by our members on the outcome of that consultation, which ended in January.

It remains our opinion that as long as the 'street pick up' part of the Licensed Private Hire Industry is poorly identified, crimes will continue to be committed easily by those purporting to be Private Hire Drivers - 'the illegal touts' or 'bogus cabs' as they are now more accurately being described.

We are aware that there is pressure from the Licensed Taxi lobby not to allow signage. It is our view, (one which is also shared by the Travelling Public and The Suzy Lamplugh Trust), that the safety of passengers is the primary consideration, not commercial gain.

As I have explained to the Taxi Industry many times, The Private Hire Industry's Licensed Operators would have no control of their drivers and in effect of their own businesses if their drivers could ply for hire on the streets, so any signage approved would need to be sensible and not plastered all over vehicles.

Licensed Taxis complain about 'the illegal touts' (bogus cabs) and I would reassure them that if sensible signage is permitted, it would harder for these criminals to ply their illegal trade.

The Licensed Private Hire sector, with its high standard of vehicles is sadly still one of London's best kept secrets, so we hope to have a positive response to our request for simple and sensible 'enabling regulations', in the near future.

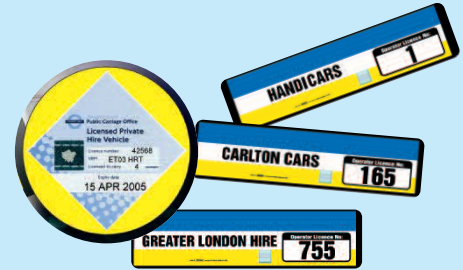
I have written to you directly on this as I have been advised that the ultimate decision on signage is likely to be in your hands.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Wright

Steve Wright MBE
Chairman LPHCA

Signage on Private Hire Vehicles



GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office

Steve Wright MBE
Chairman
Licensed Private Hire Car Association
213 Kenton Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA3 0HD

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Minicom: 020 7983 4458
Web: www.london.gov.uk

Date 30 JUN 2008

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter of 8 May regarding the recent public consultation on permitting London private hire vehicles to display external signage.

As you know, the consultation also included proposals to extend the private hire vehicle licensing inspection to incorporate a mechanical inspection.

I know that the Public Carriage Office was particularly interested in receiving comments and views from the private hire trade on these two important issues, and it is worth noting that the majority of the 98 written submissions were from the trade itself. Your contribution of 30 January was gratefully received and will be taken into account as part of the analysis, which I understand is well underway. The PCO expect to have a report prepared for consideration within the next six weeks.

The implementation of private hire licensing has contributed significantly to safer travel in London.

This is especially so having completed the second year of vehicle licensing in April 2006 and now that London has almost 40,000 licensed private hire vehicles displaying the distinctive yellow discs.

The reason for further consultation is to improve safety and I am sure that the outcome will meet this objective.

I am grateful for the role that you are playing in the further development of the licensed private hire trade.

Yours sincerely

Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London

Following the Mayor's letter and kind comments we still await news from The PCO.

