

# Private Hire Board

## A recognised part of London's transport system

by **EDDIE TOWNSON**  
Chairman Private Hire Board



The long fight to be recognised as a part of **London's transport system** and be able to pick up and set down passengers on red routes without being ticketed is coming to completion.

**Mayor Ken Livingstone** asked **TfL Street Management and Enforcement** to find the way for this to be enabled. After much discussion and considerable argument the way forward has been found.

The only price will be an interim extra sign on the front and rear of vehicles that will be required. Designs were debated on 30<sup>th</sup> April and the Industry Trade Representatives who unanimously agreed that the preferred sign would be in the form of the **Private Hire TfL Roundel**, which recognises that we are part of TfL and London's transport system.

It was a shame that our original identifier was not accepted as this is becoming recognised widely, especially when considering it has never been well advertised as the **Private Hire License disc**.

The fear of other drivers stopping and copying **Private Hire Vehicles** led to the delays because some of the older cameras cannot recognise our existing License disc.

During the original discussions with the **Transport Policing and Enforcement Directorate (TPED)** and the **PCO** it was discovered that the old monochrome and static cameras had trouble with recognition of our disc. Previously we had been led to believe that these cameras would be changed and the problems would disappear.

The compromise is that it has been agreed that a review looking at revamping the original identifier's design so we can get back to a single identifier will take place over the next 18 months.

With the red route problems being solved other items that have taken a back seat can now be looked at and the **Mayor's press release** also brought the good news that **Company Name Signage on the rear of vehicles will also be allowed**. (This has been waiting in the background since the public consultation ended in December 2005).

Also the review of medicals, including eyesight requirements, and the associated appeals system are also ongoing.

Although **Mayor Ken** has shown his support for our using the bus lanes they are of course controlled by the **Local Councils** and there will be a number of **Department for Transport (DfT)** requirements to satisfy.

We also have **CPZ's** and yellow line ticketing to deal with, **The Private Hire Board** will be working with **Door to Door** to gain the same success that we have had on red routes.

**The Inaugural Private Hire Ball** is fast approaching a super black tie event to celebrate and recognise that **Private Hire Licensing of Operators, Vehicles and Drivers has now been completed**.

This is a celebration that I hope a lot of you will attend, although tables are selling fast, if you require a full table of 12 Seats or just want to bring along your partner and join a table contact the freephone number **08000 232344** as soon as possible. **Ian and Sandra** will endeavour to satisfy your requirements.

**Any advertisers or Industry Service Providers to Private Hire can join in the fun and should contact Ian & Sandra as well. Sponsorship of prizes and advertising is also available. I hope to see you all there.**

**Luke Howard** of **PCO** asked me to look at TfL website and check out the traffic camera pictures with regard to perhaps sending out warnings etc., via text or email of highly congested areas so that we might better manage fleet operation.

The TfL website link is

[www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/livetravelnews/realtime/road/default.asp](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/livetravelnews/realtime/road/default.asp)

Please check out the link and email or fax in your thoughts etc., about how you would like the notices to be sent out.

[PHNEWS@btinternet.com](mailto:PHNEWS@btinternet.com) Fax 01442 380607

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