

MAYOR OF LONDON

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA300317-7687

Date: 25 APR 2017

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for raising your concerns with me at Mayor's Question Time on 22 March about Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) advice on mobile devices whilst driving and your letter of 30 March to follow up on the guidance issues to licensed drivers.

I have received assurance from Transport for London (TfL) Senior Lead for engagement with the taxi and private hire trade that over the last year, and particularly with the changes in penalties for the use of a handheld mobile device while driving, guidance and information has been issued to all the licensed trade, taxi and private hire, about safe driving and the use of hand held mobile phones. This includes through the magazine that TfL publishes, On Route (see latest edition <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/onroute-issue9.pdf> – pages 8, 9 and 20), and on TfL's website which continues to be promoted through the weekly email that goes out to all licence holders.

In addition, the MPS's Roads and Transport Police Command's (RTPC's) Taxi & Private Hire Policing Team (T&PHPT) are working with the TfL Traffic and Private Hire External Relations Team to communicate key messages concerning this issue to the taxi and private hire trade.

Specifically, the weekly email bulletin that was sent to all drivers on 23 March included advice relating to the increased sentence for those using a handheld mobile whilst driving. This was followed up in the March-April edition of On Route that is available to all via the TfL website and is also distributed in hard copy format to operators and at engagement events.

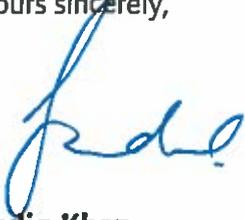
This had two features of relevance, one on obstructed driving (having a clear windscreen as it is noted that some drivers will have two or more mobiles/satellite navigation fixed to their windscreen.) The MPS T&PHPT lead and City of London police both contributed to the article, which also drew drivers' attention to the offence of a driver not having full and proper control of their vehicle (i.e. by the use of an app on a cradled device whilst actively engaged in driving) and also of the offence of them not having full vision of what is going on around them. The other feature was relating directly to the increased penalties for the use of a handheld device whilst driving.

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The MPS also put out information on the RTPC twitter feed (18.9k followers) which is linked to and is consistent with the Think! campaign (<http://think.direct.gov.uk/mobile-phones.html>). The officer in charge of the T&PHPT, Inspector Neil Billany, would be very happy to meet you to discuss the trade as a whole. Inspector Billany can be contacted by email at neil.billany@met.police.uk.

Thank you again for bringing this important matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London