

## Hill Lee

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**From:** James Farrar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 12 September 2017 14:13  
**To:** Daniels Leon  
**Cc:** Chapman Helen (TPH)  
**Subject:** Re: UPHD Stakeholder recognition

Dear Leon

We raised an important request and query with Helen Chapman on August 22 - please see attached email thread. Three weeks have now passed and we have received no response. Unfortunately, most communications we send Helen go unanswered and we find that unacceptable.

We are asking for immediate stakeholder recognition of UPHD, as a constituted branch of the IWGB trade union and the largest private hire driver representative body in London & the UK, within the taxi and private hire stakeholder group, including full access to all private hire stakeholder meetings, so we may represent our members. If you decline our right to representation we expect to be given reasons for this in writing.

Given Helen's nil response, we now escalate the matter to you and, in turn, if we do not get a response from you, we will keep escalating the matter until we do.

We also want to put you on notice that we have organised a protest outside Palestra at 8am on September 27 - the day we go back to court against Uber. The demo will be the first of it's kind in London bringing together workers engaged in precarious employment and their supporters including private hire drivers, care workers, couriers, cleaners, security guards and others.

We have chosen to rally outside Palestra before marching across Blackfriars to highlight the terrible role TfL has played to foster the exploitation of 120,000 private hire drivers. Since Uber's arrival, TfL has profited through an explosion in license revenues while excluding drivers from the stakeholder process and providing substantial advantage to corporate operators like Uber and Addison Lee. We will be highlighting how TfL has presided over a deterioration in standards which now resemble sweatshop conditions (as identified by Frank Field MP) with drivers routinely working as much as 90 hours a week for £5 per hour. We will also be highlighting TfL's continued refusal to engage with any dedicated private hire representative body despite while maintaining an inappropriately close relationship with the corporate interests behind Uber and Addison Lee.

We respectfully invite you to attend this demo to address the participants and address their concerns.

We await to hear your decision on our status as stakeholders and if you will agree to address our demo.

Regards  
James Farrar  
Chair UPHD branch of the IWGB Union

[REDACTED]



On Tue, Aug 22, 2017 at 12:33 PM, James Farrar <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Dear Helen

I understand that there is no policy document governing TfL stakeholder engagement with private hire representative bodies..As such there is no defined restrictions so all legitimate representation bodies for private hire licensees must be recognised.

We are deeply concerned that existing private hire engagement conducted by TfL is severely imbalanced with over representation of private hire operators while private hire drivers, who contribute 73% of TfL TPH license revenues, have no dedicated representation. This situation is untenable and unacceptable.

TfL's previous argument that GMB represent private hire drivers is not legitimate. This is because (i) GMB combine representation of private hire drivers, operators and taxi drivers which still leaves private hire drivers without dedicated representation, (ii) it ignores the democratic right of UPHD members to be represented as they chose fit by the largest PH driver union in the UK and allows TfL to cherry pick, (iii) it prohibits a diversity of PH driver representation compared to 23,000 taxi drivers who have 5 recognised representative bodies.

In addition, we have become increasingly disturbed by the outsize influence of operators such as Uber and Addison Lee. We note TfL has argued for a 'confidential 'safe space' to engage with Uber while continuing the exclusion of PH drovers. As you will know, UPHD as part of the IWGB Trade Union, has taken over the legal case for worker rights against Uber and we also note the extent to which Uber has relied on legal opinion provided by TfL in their appeal of our case.

We are also concerned by the views expressed by LPHCA who submitted to TfL in the regulatory review where they identified PH drivers as a terrorist. money laundering and tax fraud risk - an outrageous assertion by the employer body.

We are also deeply troubled by the unchecked influence of taxi trade bodies who continue to rely on racist tropes to define PH drivers predominantly as sex offenders. In particular we object to UCG's continued recognition under the leadership of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You will recall that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was sac ked as an MP candidate in this year's election after it was exposed that the published deeply offensive Islamophobic comments and was linked to the Bklue Hand Group.

We specifically ask you to let us know what action TfL has taken in line with your obligation as regulator to assess individuals and organisations to be fit and proper for licensing and recognition by TfL. We see PH drivers having their licenses revoked for tivial matters under fit and proper assessment. We hope that TfL will not be seen to foster and tolerate open Islamophobia and racism from Taxi drivers and organisational leaders.

We are also concerned that TfL's current stakeholder engagement process lacks suitable inclusion of BAME representatives despite the fact that 80% of PH drivers contributing 73% of license revenue are from BAME backgrounds.

Please be aware that UPHD is fully constituted as a branch of the IWGB Trade Union and regulated by the UK government as such. We are the largest trade representative body in the UK and London.

Given the arguments outlined above we are now demanding immediate recognition as a TfL TPH stakeholder. The current stakeholder process is imbalanced, discriminatory and leads to an imbalance leading to poor policy decisions. If you decide otherwise we demand that you provide us the reasons in writing. we then reserve the right to take appropriate action to secure the representation we have a right to and deserve.

Best Regards

James Farrar  
Chair UPHD branch of the IWGB Union

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