



## TfL and Taxi Trade Consultation

This Notice sets out Transport for London's (TfL's) position in respect of its approach to engaging with the taxi trade.

TfL has a long established tradition of consulting with the taxi trade about matters affecting licensing, regulation and policy.

Since my appointment in September 2009 I have implemented an "open door" policy and have invested a considerable amount of my time during my first months in such dialogue. I took the decision to engage with the well established trade organisations such as the LTDA, LCDC and Unite as well as newer organisations such as the RMT, internet forum members and individual drivers and felt this approach was necessary to fully understand the full range of issues and concerns of the taxi trade

However, I am aware that this approach is not sustainable if I am to lead the Directorate in delivering the changes needed to address many of the issues raised. Whilst I am prepared to meet with newer or smaller organisations on an occasional and informal basis my regular and formal meetings regarding trade matters will remain with the LTDA, LCDC and Unite.

Whilst there have been calls for "recognition" from some organisations for the purposes of negotiation and collective bargaining it should be stressed that TfL's relationship with the taxi trade is of an entirely different nature and, as a consequence, recognition is not appropriate, especially in respect of TfL's statutory responsibilities and powers as the licensing authority. There is no employee/employer relationship and no requirement for collective bargaining.

Consultation, however, is not the same thing as negotiation and TfL has never sought to strike bargains with the taxi trade or with any particular representative trade body. This position remains unchanged, and TfL's approach will be to continue to engage through consultation and dialogue with the trade to ensure that licensing and regulation remains proportionate and contributes to improving standards throughout all aspects of London's taxi services.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Mason', with a horizontal line underneath.

**John Mason**  
Director Taxi and Private Hire

**19 February 2010**

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**MAYOR OF LONDON**