



### **TfL and Taxi Trade Engagement and Consultation**

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

**It supersedes Notice 05/10 issued on Friday 19 February 2010 which has been withdrawn and should be disregarded.**

TfL has a long established tradition of meeting and formally consulting with the taxi trade about matters affecting driver and vehicle licensing, regulation and policy and remains fully committed to ensuring this continues.

Since my appointment in September 2009 I have implemented an "open door" policy to the taxi trade and have invested a considerable amount of time during my first months in the role of Director in both formal and informal engagement.

Such engagement has included formal meetings and consultation with well established taxi driver trade organisations such as the LTDA, LCDC and Unite, along with the LMCPA, vehicle manufacturers and the taxi radio circuits. In addition I have also spent a considerable amount of time discussing predominately taxi driver specific issues on a less formal basis with newer organisations such as the RMT, internet forum members and individual drivers. I have welcomed the honest and valued input all areas of the trade have provided me as this has enabled me to fully understand the many issues and concerns of the taxi trade.

However, this level of personal involvement is not sustainable if I am to lead the Directorate in delivering the changes needed and address the concerns raised.

Whilst I would like to assure all organisations we currently formally consult with and meet on a regular basis through existing forums and meetings that this will continue, my personal formal meetings will remain with the LTDA, LCDC and Unite as well as other key stakeholders such as the LMCPA, vehicle manufacturers, radio circuits etc.

I will endeavour to continue to meet with newer or smaller organisations on a regular, informal basis and they will continue to be invited to participate in formal consultation on trade issues.

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.



**John Mason**  
**Director Taxi and Private Hire**

**25 February 2010**

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