

## TACKLING TOUTING

Although Boris Johnson has announced his “One strike and you’re out” policy, which will see any licensed taxi or private hire driver convicted of toutting have their licence revoked, the problems are still out there on the street.

One licensed London ‘black cab’ driver, Gary Palmer, contacted Taxi Globe recently. He said: “I’m becoming increasingly concerned over the number of private hire drivers who are stopping to pick up passengers after being hailed in the street. The police seem to do nothing to prevent this and I seriously doubt TfL’s ability to properly police the issue either.

Maybe if London cabbies took the time to report offenders on a regular basis via the TfL web site, something might be more likely to happen? Any ideas or suggestions that other readers have would be well received.”

The Public Carriage Office advises that such offences must be reported to them. One of the easiest ways of doing this is via the TfL website where you will find there is a form that can be filled in. Details required include the vehicle registration number of the vehicle concerned, the time and date of incident, together with the place and details of the incident.

Perhaps if all drivers email details every time more offenders will find themselves losing their licence. Gary concludes: “It’s difficult enough at the moment without having to lose night time fares to touts.”

## GOVERNMENT GOES ON HOLIDAY AS TAXI OWNERS SUFFER

The Fuelcard People has warned taxi owners not to expect early Government help with the continuing effects of the credit crunch. The company’s general manager, Steve Clarke, said: “Many operators are already in trouble because of the awful economic situation, which is clearly not about to improve.

The Government’s answer is to pack its bags, as Parliament closes on July 22 and they do not return until October. How many operators will go under while MPs enjoy an 11-week holiday?”

Steve Clarke continued: “With the £6 gallon of diesel now a reality, having an everyday discount on pump prices is important. More vital, though, is the easy availability of free credit. If you are regularly putting £1,000 worth of fuel into your tanks, a week or two of free credit can be extremely helpful to a hard-pressed operator.”

Free credit is offered as standard with every fuel card in The Fuelcard People’s range, covering such brands as BP, Esso, Shell, Texaco, Diesel Direct and ReD. Depending upon which fuel card is used, and the timing of refuelling, members could enjoy up to 14 days of free credit on their fuel purchases. The Fuelcard People, launched in 2008 and based in Abingdon, offers customers significant day-to-day savings on both diesel and petrol, nationwide and can give genuinely impartial advice.

For more information email [info@thefuelcardpeople.co.uk](mailto:info@thefuelcardpeople.co.uk) or visit the website [www.thefuelcardpeople.co.uk](http://www.thefuelcardpeople.co.uk)



**Steve Clarke, general manager,  
The Fuelcard People**

## BRITAIN LOVES THE LONDON TAXI

The London Taxi has once again been voted the most iconic vehicle in Britain, according to a recent survey commissioned by Holiday Inn. In the poll of over 7,000 Brits the instantly recognisable black cab ranked the highest vehicle on the list ahead of the Aston Martin, Mini Cooper and Jaguar E-type. Fish ‘n’ Chips topped the overall poll, followed by the Queen in second place and old fashioned pubs in third.

Rob Laidler, Sales Director for LTI Vehicles said: “This survey sums up everything we love about Britain and is yet another accolade for the London Taxi. It’s not hard to see why our cab is loved by millions of Britons and this result serves only to reinforce its iconic status. Visitors to this country always quote a ride in a London Taxi as one of their favourite activities. This helps make London a unique city in the world with the best taxis and taxi drivers by far.”

Andrew Smith, spokesman for Holiday Inn, commented on the findings: “As a nation, we are rightly patriotic. This list gives a fascinating insight into exactly what it means to be British – our food, history, Royalty, our many wonderful characters and all the fabulous places we love to visit.”



## TAXI MEDICALS

Responsibility for determining the standards, including medical requirements, to be applied to taxi drivers, over and above the driver licensing requirements, rests with the PCO. If you are looking for a taxi medical, a new service is being offered by a GP in E4. Doctor Radrie Cole, GMC registration number 4518279 told Taxi Globe: “I do the renewable 5 yearly medical and the yearly medical to the over 65 years. This includes neurological, cardiovascular, urine test for blood sugar, test of mental health, visual disorders, enquiry into drug and alcohol use and any other conditions that may affect driving ability. The examination lasts for 30 minutes. I ask patient to expect to take their shirt off, to bring a urine sample for dip stick. I also ask patient to bring a summary of their medical records from their own GP. As a rule, I do not see any patient who already has a medical diagnosis, for example a diabetic. I believe these patients should see their own GP.”

The medicals are carried out at The Old Church Surgery, London E4 6RG. Appointments can be booked between 0715 to 0915 Monday to Saturday and 1900 to 2100 Wednesday to Friday. Each examination will take approximately 30 minutes and costs £100. If you any questions or would like to book a medical, please telephone 07947254217 or for more information log on to [www.taximedicals.co.uk](http://www.taximedicals.co.uk)