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MAYOR ASKS BUSINESSES TO OPEN THEIR TOILETS

As every taxi driver in London knows, it can often be very difficult to find a public toilet to use when the need arises. Since 1999 London has experienced the highest decline in the number of local authority owned and run public toilets in the country. This lack of facilities is a particular problem for taxi drivers, as well as older Londoners, those with disabilities and families with young children.

Boris Johnson is calling on London businesses to open their toilets to the public. He wants every London borough to sign up to the Community Toilet Scheme, which provides businesses with small grants to open their toilet facilities to the public. The scheme is already running successfully in several boroughs. Boris Johnson said: "The Community Toilet Scheme is a common sense and cost effective solution to the lack of public toilets in London. It is also an ingenious way around the high costs normally associated with running them.

"Older people and families with young children in particular find the lack of public loos inconvenient and an incredible burden when out and about. I am supportive of small measures that make a big difference to quality of life in London. Everyone should be able to go out and enjoy this great city without worrying about the location of the nearest



accessible public toilet.

"In the longer term however I want the Government to face up to its responsibilities and provide Londoners with the greater public amenities they deserve by changing current legislation and providing local authorities with more funding for essential services."

Chairman of London Councils Councillor Merrick Cockell said: "The

community toilet scheme is an excellent example of how boroughs can take simple steps to make life that little bit more convenient for their residents. Several boroughs are already running the scheme in their local area, and I'm sure many more will now answer the Mayor's call and set them up for their communities." In Richmond, where the scheme began in 2005, Cllr Martin Elenhorn, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, said: "The Community Toilet

Scheme is an innovative idea where the Council supports local pubs, cafes and shops with an annual sum in exchange for which they welcome visitors to use their toilets freely and without having to make a purchase. We now have 75 premises signed up all over the borough. Since the scheme was introduced, we now have more toilets, kept clean and safe and open for longer hours than ever before."

EMAIL SCAMS

If you are a regular user of email, you will no doubt have received emails which say they are from your bank with regard to online banking. Once you look at these emails in most cases it can be seen that they are not genuinely from a bank. Sterling is the Metropolitan Police initiative to tackle Economic Crime throughout London. By working together with individuals and organisations, from all levels of the private and public sectors, Sterling aims to make London safer from all types of Economic Crime. Innovative new techniques are being developed to prevent, disrupt, and prosecute fraud related offences.

Sterling are offering this advice: "Please send all banking related phishing emails to reports@banksafeonline.org.uk.

Queries related to Paypal or Ebay should be sent to spooof@paypal.co.uk and spooof@ebay.co.uk respectively. Please copy us into any emails that are sent to these organisations.

Please note we will not respond to ALL emails sent into the Fraud Alert team, unless we require further information or clarification from you. We apologise for this, but this is necessary due to the volume of email traffic we are receiving."

If as a result of one of these frauds or any other type of fraud, you have become a victim of crime, you will need to attend your local police station to report the allegation.

CONSULTATION BEGINS ON MID YEAR INSPECTIONS

The Public Carriage Office (PCO) has begun its consulting on the future arrangements for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing inspections, specifically on the mid-year safety inspection for taxis and also the requirement for private hire vehicles (PHVs) to have a mid-year MoT test.

Mayor Boris Johnson made a commitment to consult on the abolition of the mid-year safety inspections for taxis. The consultation document can be found on the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk/pco or copies can be collected from the ground floor reception at the PCO. Responses are welcomed from anyone who may be affected by the proposals and the deadline for submitting responses is Friday 24 October 2008.

Responses can be submitted in the following ways:

- email: PCO.Consultation@tfl.gov.uk
- fax: 020 7126 1897
- writing: Taxi and PHV Licensing Inspection Consultation, Public Carriage Office, 15 Penton Street, London N1 9PU

Any changes to taxi and PHV licensing inspections would be introduced following consideration and approval by the Tfl Board.



Public Carriage Office

