

## OBSTRUCTED TRAFFIC FLOWS

In a report from Transport for London which states that despite 70,000 fewer cars a day entering the central zone of London and 30,000 fewer in the Western Extension, congestion in both of these areas is still as bad as it was before the charge was introduced. Whilst some of this is down to road works, the report admits that many traffic lights and other road schemes have reduced road and junction capacity, and publicly confirms what previously was only admitted behind closed doors — that obstructing traffic was a deliberate policy.



“This latest report on the London congestion charge demonstrates the fundamental dishonesty of all road pricing proposals,” said the ABD’s Nigel Humphries. “They claim that by paying even more money to use the roads, drivers will benefit from lower congestion. But London has proved that anti car authorities and pressure groups will simply not allow this to happen. They just increase the number of traffic lights and reduce the road space available until drivers are just paying through the nose to sit in the same jams as before.”

The ABD would like to see all bus lanes to be reviewed to ensure that they do not restrict overall road capacity. This means no bus lanes through junctions or across pelican crossings, which halve the amount of traffic that can pass when there are no buses or taxis on the road. They would also want the removal of at least 20% of the traffic lights in central London by identifying those which do nothing but obstruct traffic flow. Other ideas include reversal of schemes like Trafalgar Square which reduce road capacity and create huge jams, mostly comprising buses and taxis.

## FIGHTING CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Credit card fraud is still on the rise so businesses need to make sure they are protecting themselves and their customers from fraudsters, warns the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMIF). The good news is that face-to-face fraud has been reduced. Since the introduction of Chip and PIN in 2004, card fraud in face-to-face transactions has dropped 67 per cent from £218.8m in 2004 to £73m in 2007. Face-to-face card fraud now represents just 14 per cent of total card fraud losses, down from 59 per cent in 2006.

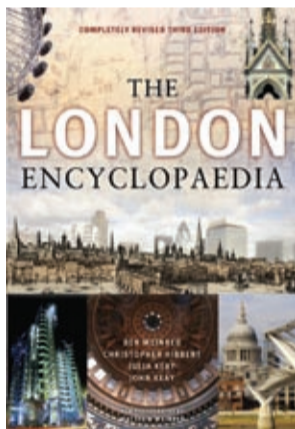
Over 9.9 billion transactions were made on UK cards in 2007, totalling £567.7 billion, but despite the use of Chip and PIN technology, introduced in 2004 to reduce credit card fraud in retail situations, overall card fraud is still on the rise. Total card fraud losses in the UK were £535.2m in 2007, 25 per cent up on 2006. Counterfeit card fraud, where a fake card is created using stolen details, totalled £144.3m in 2007, 46 per cent up on 2006.

## THE LONDON ENCYCLOPAEDIA

Completely revised Third Edition

Ben Weinreb, Christopher Hibbert, Julia Keay, John Keay

Published 22 August 2008 at £50.00



The long-awaited third edition of the most comprehensive book on London ever published is now extensively revised and updated for the twenty-first century. The newly updated edition has almost 200 new entries which show the myriad of changes to the UK capital which have happened over the past 15 years, when the last edition appeared. These new entries include the Freud Museum, Chinatown, the new Globe Theatre, the London Eye, the Millennium Bridge and Dome, mosques, Hindu temples, the Swiss Re Tower (aka ‘the Gherkin’), the Tate Modern, Shad Thames and the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain. Contemporary images have been added to the existing 500 period prints, drawings and photographs and, as before, there is a general index and an index of people.

For taxi drivers who have embarked on The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers Cab Guide Course, this book is essential reading. On page 181, the Company has its own descriptive paragraph, along with many other City Livery Companies. But it is also an interesting source of much valuable knowledge for anyone interested in London, whether they live here, work here, or are a visitor here. Everything anyone could possibly want to know about London is contained within the covers of this magnificent and fascinating book. From the very first entry for the A-Z Street Map of London to the very last entry for the Zoological Society of London First this book is must for cab drivers who want to know more about the great city where they ply their trade. The new edition of The London Encyclopaedia will find a whole new generation of readers and will delight anew its huge number of existing aficionados.

## NATURAL GAS TAXIS BENEFITS GERMAN TAXI DRIVERS

Many taxi drivers in Germany are now saving thousands of euros thanks to using natural gas instead of diesel. One taxi journal in Germany looked at operating costs of Mercedes E200, Mercedes B-Class, Opel Zafira and Volkswagen Touran natural gas vehicles against their diesel equivalents. The Opel Zafira produced the highest savings, 18,000 Euros over two years while the B-Class and the Touran produced savings of 16,000 and 15,700 Euros respectively. The journal also quotes a consultant as saying that 8 out of 10 Mercedes taxis purchased now in Germany operate on compressed natural gas (CNG).

