

## GUINNESS PREMIERSHIP RUGBY PLAYERS SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE DRINKING

Taxis were chosen to play a major role in the Drinkaware Trust campaign. The 12 Guinness Premiership clubs have teamed up with The Drinkaware Trust (Drinkaware), the UK charity which aims to reduce alcohol harm, to promote responsible drinking over the festive season.

Players from London Irish, currently top of the Guinness Premiership, braved the rain to pose alongside a Drinkaware black cab, one of 300 branded taxis displaying advice to partygoers in London throughout December. Mark McCafferty, Chief Executive of Premier Rugby, said: "The Drinkaware responsible drinking message is an important one and the Guinness Premiership clubs set aside Round 9 on 20th December, well-placed within the festive season, to help communicate Drinkaware's messages and suggestions to fans for a safe and happy Christmas and New Year."

Drinkaware's CEO, Chris Sorek, said: "Drinkaware was delighted to support the Guinness Premiership's responsible drinking weekend. By distributing tip cards at rugby fixtures, we hope to offer practical guidance to club fans who want to have a merry – and memorable – Christmas." Up to a million tip cards have been distributed to over 2000 pubs across the UK, and a further 10,000 given to taxi passengers in London throughout December.

The Drinkaware Trust is an independent charity set up by agreement of government, health and drinks industry leaders in 2006. Its sole purpose is to provide credible, independent and authoritative advice about alcohol to consumers, focussing on under-18s and adults aged 25-44 whose drinking puts them at risk of long-term harm.



## WITHDRAW CAP ON TAXICARD SCHEME LONDON ASSEMBLY TELLS MAYOR

London Assembly has agreed a motion calling for both a review of the Dial-A-Ride service and the way the Taxicard scheme is funded. This is in response to a continuing volume of complaints about door-to-door transport schemes from vulnerable people in the capital who have suffered lengthy waits or been left stranded in unsafe locations.

The motion criticises the Mayor's decision to cap Transport for London's funding contribution to the Taxicard at £12.7 million, placing more financial pressure on already over-stretched London boroughs to support the service. Caroline Pidgeon AM, who proposed the motion, said: "It is an absolute disgrace that a service used by the most vulnerable Londoners, who are least able to cope with unreliability and a challenging booking system, is failing so miserably. The Mayor must undertake a full review of Dial-A-Ride and, if Transport for London is unable to run it to an acceptable standard, he needs to look at alternative solutions."

The Motion says: "The Assembly calls on the Mayor to review urgently both the unsatisfactory services provided to vulnerable passengers by Dial-A-Ride. The Assembly further deplores the decision of the Mayor and Transport for London to 'cap' at £12.7 million their contribution to the London Boroughs in respect of Taxicard, increasing the burden on council taxpayers rather than using Government grant to support this important service. The Assembly calls on the Mayor to withdraw his 'cap' on TfL's contribution to the Taxicard scheme."

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