

# ROYAL PARKS CONSULTATION

A consultation to get views on proposals to amend the Royal Parks Regulations finishes on 1st May 2009, so if you wish to make your views heard, your comments need to be sent as soon as possible.

Send your comments to:  
 Consultation@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk  
 Or write to:  
 Consultation - Regulations Review  
 The Royal Parks  
 The Old Police House  
 Hyde Park  
 London W2 2UH

## PROPOSALS

In Section 2, proposals are made regarding taxis and private hire vehicles. Under section 2.6, The Royal Parks Regulations currently prohibit any vehicle that is “constructed, adapted or in use as a trade vehicle” from entering the Royal Parks unless they have express permission to do so, or legitimate business in the Parks. The only exception is for Hackney carriages (“black cabs”) licensed by the Public Carriage Office (PCO), on the grounds that they provide a service for visitors. However, as Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) in London are now also licensed by the PCO, it is proposed to amend the regulations and allow PHVs into the Parks on the same terms as are already allowed for black cabs.

The general prohibition on commercial vehicles entering the Parks unless they have explicit permission to do so, or legitimate business in the Parks will not change. It is not intended at this stage to widen access to PHVs licensed by authorities outside London.

In this Consultation, The Royal Parks are asking: Q6: Do you support our proposal to allow Private Hire Vehicles that are licensed by the Public Carriage Office to enter the Royal Parks on the same terms as are already allowed in law for black cabs? If not, please give your reasons.

The Secretary of State issued a direction in 1982 which set out that black cabs bearing external advertisements may enter the Royal Parks, despite there being a prohibition in the regulations against displaying advertising material without express permission. This is now a long-standing practice and proposals are to consider if it would be appropriate to put this on a statutory footing. It is also proposed to make the same provision in respect of Private Hire Vehicles.

Q7: Do you agree with our proposal to give express statutory force to the already accepted practice that black cabs are allowed to enter the Royal Parks even if they are bearing advertisements?

Q8: Do you agree that we should make identical provision in respect of PHVs (provided that the proposal to allow them to enter the Royal Parks is implemented.)

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It is always a good feeling to get thanked, so Taxi Globe is pleased to pass on the thanks of this taxi driver to Alan Fleming. His letter has been received by Taxi Globe after he used the services of Taxi Drivers & Owners Legal Protection Ltd.

*Dear Editor*

*Would it be possible for you to publish this letter - Alan Fleming has shown me nothing but compassion and kindness, when I had no where else to turn.*

*For the last 15 months I have been under threat of having my license revoked by the PCO, for a minor health problem that occurred 21 years ago. The PCO did revoke my license in March this year. I really did not know where to turn, as I did not know how to fight their decision on my own. Someone advised me to contact Alan Fleming and his new organisation TOLPS (Taxi Owners and Proprietors Legal Protection). Alan was very sympathetic and said: "Leave it with me and I will see what I can do."*

*Alan did a lot of research, sent countless emails and made lots of telephone calls to the PCO, and kept me fully informed on an almost daily basis. The outcome was that in less than 1 month I had a call from the PCO to inform me that they were returning my badge and bill.*

*I can't thank Alan enough, and I would encourage everybody in the trade to join his organisation. At only £7 a month it is a small price to pay for the help I received. The knowledge Alan has of Hackney Carriage Law is priceless, if you think you don't need protection, then think again. The cost of me taking this to court would have been well in excess of £5000.*

*M. Swain*

020 7701 2701

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