



**WARNERS**  
GROUP PUBLICATIONS PLC  
West Street, Bourne,  
Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

#### EDITORIAL

Editor: S. Goodwin  
Tel: 01707 885439  
Fax: 01707 696034

E-mail: taxiglobeeditor@warnersgroup.co.uk

#### DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Sarah Hubbard  
Advertising Manager  
Tel: 01778 392048  
Fax: 01778 392079

E-mail: sarahh@warnersgroup.co.uk

#### PUBLISHER

Simon Moody

#### DISTRIBUTION

DND Transport Services Ltd.  
Tel 01707 272305

#### PRINTERS

Cumbrian Newsprint, Cumbria

#### PRODUCTION

Zone 1 Media LLP  
Tel: 01462 491134  
Fax: 01462 491137

E-mail: pauline@zone1media.co.uk

#### ACCOUNTS & CREDIT CONTROL

Caroline Harris  
Tel: 01778 391023

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

To ensure you get a copy of Taxi Globe for 12 months, please send a cheque or postal order, made payable to Warners Group Publication, for £20 inclusive of VAT and post and packing in the UK to:  
Taxi Globe Subscriptions,  
West Street, Bourne,  
Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

Taxi Globe has been carefully prepared, but articles are published without the responsibility on the part of the publishers or authors for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of any view, information or advice included therein. The publishers accept no responsibility for the views or opinions expressed by contributors. Articles published in Taxi Globe do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publishers, nor can the publishers or authors accept any responsibility for any claims made by the advertisers.

## NINE OPERATIONS RESULT IN PH OPERATOR LICENSES BEING REVOKED

Illegal touting is being targeted after Westminster City Council, TfL and the MPS joined forces to tackle West End touts. Following the LTDA DVD showing how bad the problems were in the West End at night, nine high visibility night operations have taken place in the past month. The PCO is revoking five operator licences; Notices of licence revocation were delivered by the PCO on Thursday April 30. The Council is looking to tackle unauthorised private hire operators' offices inside nightclubs through planning laws, which require premises to have specific permission for private vehicle operating centres and TfL will continue revoking licences of operators who operate in this way at their other offices.

Westminster City Council met with representatives from the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, the London Cab Drivers Club and Unite on 28 April 2009 to discuss problems taxi drivers had noticed with minicabs flouting double yellow lines and double red lines and openly touting.

### GOLDEN FARE RULE

In a proposal being discussed with taxi driver organisations, a potential "Golden Fare" rule could see standard fares operating from a central London taxi rank - £30 for any trip seven miles or under, £40 between seven and 10 miles, and £50 for a journey between 10 and 12 miles.



Martin Low

Martin Low, Director of Transportation for Westminster City Council said: "Getting people home safely at the end of a night out in the West End is important and both black cabs and quality private hire cars have a significant role to play. Westminster City Council is waging war on touts with TfL and the Metropolitan Police and we will not tolerate them or minicabs who flout the law.

"We have just finished a nine night high visibility operation with TfL and the Metropolitan Police to crack down on this, which resulted in six arrests, several operators reported to the Public Carriage Office, with five private hire operating centres' licences revoked because their staff were touting for business on the pavement outside a night club and more than 250 cars inspected.

"We will incorporate information from the cab trade on illegal touts and parking for the next operation, which we will finalise shortly. We are also looking to



Ed Thompson, Director of Taxi and Private Hire at the Public Carriage Office said: "This has been a very successful operation and licensed taxi drivers and private hire drivers who are working within the law are as glad as we are to see the touts being tackled head on like this. Taxi touts are not insured and are not regulated and they are not a safe way to get home."

push forward with plans with TfL and the cab trade for a Golden Fare scheme operating from 10pm to 4am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights for black cab drivers and possibly private hire vehicles, which would charge passengers a standard £30, £40 or £50 fare for journeys of seven, 10 and 12 miles from the west side of Leicester Square respectively.

"We know the cab trade welcomes this idea, which would make travel at night more straight-forward for passengers who would know and pay their full fare before leaving the West End and hopefully encourage taxi drivers to return to the West End to pick up more passengers. The scheme requires some changes to regulations and TfL is planning consultation on them later this year."

Joe Royle, Chief Superintendent of TOCU, MPS, said: "We are working together to keep London moving safely and are committed to driving down crime and the fear of crime. Illegal minicabs and touting undermines the legitimate cab trade and raises the fear of crime. The TOCU regularly targets policing activity on unlicensed and uninsured private hire vehicles and carries out major operations targeting offenders who pose as cab or private hire drivers."

### FURTHER CRACKDOWN PLANNED

A meeting between WCC, the Metropolitan Police Service's Transport Operational Command Unit (TOCU) TfL, licensed taxi trade associations and the Chairman of the private hire vehicle operators' association on 1 May 2009 reviewed the last operation and begin drawing up plans for the next crackdown. Readers may recall that shortly before the G20 summit, the Department for Transport ruled that the City Council's digital wireless CCTV cameras were taking images which were 18 pixels short of the standard resolution required. This meant the cameras can only be used to enforce "moving traffic" violations, but not illegal waiting or parking.



Pictured left:  
Illegal Touts

