



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

Chrissy Booty
Advertising Sales Executive
Tel: 01778 391158
Fax: 01778 392079

christinab@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.

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS WARNED: 'ONE STRIKE AND YOU'RE ALSO OUT'

As part of TfL's continued commitment to combating illegal cab touting, private hire operators in the Capital have been warned that if their staff are found not to be complying with the licensed operator rules, they will be penalised and, if necessary, prosecuted.

NEW RULES INCLUDE OPERATORS

New rules, which came into effect on January 1st 2010, mean that operators could lose their licence and face being prosecuted if their staff are caught touting. The 'one strike and you're out' policy which was introduced in August 2008 to tackle touting has been expanded to include private hire operators based in late night venues. Previously, the policy only applied to licensed private hire drivers convicted of touting. Drivers who have their licences revoked under these circumstances may not be considered for a fresh licence until 12 months after the date of revocation.

Figures from TfL show that more than 230 private hire drivers' licences have been revoked or refused renewal as a result of the 'one strike and you're out' policy.

- * Bookings must only be taken inside the premises that are covered by the TfL private hire licence, and that the licence should be on display;
- * Staff must not take bookings outside a building that has a private hire licence and are prohibited from soliciting for hire under any circumstances;
- * Private hire drivers must not park or wait illegally outside venues.

TACKLING ILLEGAL TOUTING

John Mason, Director of Taxi and Private Hire at Transport for London, said: "We know the public have concerns about taxi touts and that there is particular confusion when licensed operators' staff work outside venues. As a result, I've re-issued guidelines to the relevant operators and venues, and instructed my enforcement teams to extend the 'one strike and you're out' policy. The TfL funded Metropolitan Police Safer Transport Command continues to clamp down on illegal cabs, and we are determined to tackle any issues surrounding this matter head on. It's important that every Londoner understands the difference between legal taxis and minicabs on the one hand, and illegal cabs and touts on the other. It is a legal requirement to pre-book minicabs, and if you don't you are putting yourself at risk.

"My message to operators and venue managers is that it's essential you make your staff understand and abide by the law, and we will be pushing for the strongest possible penalties if operators and their staff are found not to be complying with the regulations."



WESTMINSTER POLICE APPEAL

Police officers in Westminster are appealing to London's cab drivers for information after a man was robbed on New Year's Day. The 34 year old had been out celebrating the New Year in central London and was walking down Old Compton St on his way home at around 6am on New Year's Day when two men started shouting and chasing after him. The victim ran into Wardour Street and jumped into a black cab, which was waiting at the side door of the Queen's Theatre, to escape the men who were chasing him.

One of the suspects tried to get into the cab with him and an argument started, with the suspects demanding money from the victim. The cab driver told all the men to get out of the taxi and he drove away. The men continued to argue and eventually took the victim around Soho and forced him to withdraw £150 in cash from

a cashpoint in Greek Street, before walking off in the direction of Bateman Street.

The two men are described as white, aged between 20-25. One of them is six feet tall, has dark brown hair and a London accent and the other is 5ft 9, has short styled hair and is possible Welsh.

Investigating Officer, DC Emma Howard, said: "I am really keen to trace the driver as he could hold some vital information which would help us to trace this pair. It is likely that the driver thought the men were just arguing and did not realise it was a robbery in progress. I'm hoping that someone reading this will remember the incident and will get in touch."

Anyone with information should contact Westminster Robbery Squad, on 020 7321 6744.

DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORT SERVICES UNDER REVIEW

London Assembly's Transport Committee is to assess London Councils' plans to integrate door-to-door transport services in order to address problems experienced by users. Integration is seen as a possible solution to criticism of the wide variation in the quality and the lack of coordination of door-to-door transport services, which include Dial-a-Ride, Taxicard, CapitalCall, and a range of NHS and borough transport services for people with special health or educational needs. However, integrating services from different providers that work to different eligibility criteria and service levels will be challenging.

Chair of the Transport Committee, Caroline Pidgeon AM, said: "We will focus particularly on Dial-a-Ride as it is plagued by ongoing problems that are leaving some of the most vulnerable people in our communities without the efficient and reliable service

they deserve. Our investigation will also assess whether bringing together all the different services for people with special transport requirements will result in a better service across the board."

The Committee will look at the recent performance of the troubled Dial-a-Ride service to establish whether Transport for London's (TfL) efforts to improve it are paying off. Following a heated public debate with Dial-a-Ride users and TfL in March last year, the Committee wrote to the Mayor highlighting problems with the service including a lack of availability, poor punctuality and long call waiting times. At the time, a survey of 200 Dial-a-Ride users showed 40 per cent of respondents rated the service as 'poor' or 'very poor' and the Committee will assess whether things are any better a year on.

