

TFL TARGETS ILLEGAL PRIVATE HIRE ACTIVITY IN KINGSTON

Illegal private hire activities and unsafe private hire vehicles were targeted in a multi-agency operation in Kingston on Friday 11 June. Officials from TfL, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Cab Enforcement Unit, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the local authority enforcement teams worked together in a multi-agency enforcement operation.

In total 39 TfL licensed private hire vehicles were given immediate stop notices and one unlicensed driver was identified. VOSA issued PG9 certificates to 10 private hire vehicles, resulting in the vehicles being unusable. TfL will

be making several follow-up visits to Operators to check on concerns about driver documentation identified during the operation.

John Mason, TfL Director of London Taxi and Private Hire, said: “We are often criticised for what cabbies see as a lack of enforcement of private hire vehicles and we are working hard to address these issues. We undertake similar types of exercises on a regular basis across London; the multi-agency approach in Kingston on Friday night demonstrates our commitment on cracking down on illegal activity by private hire drivers and unsafe vehicles. Our message is simple, whether you are a licensed private hire driver, operator

or licensed taxi driver, act within the law at all times, and you have nothing to fear”.

The CEU made 1,449 arrests for touting (including licensed and unlicensed drivers) between 1 August 2008 and 31 May 2010. This has led to 435 Magistrates’ Court convictions involving licensed Private Hire Vehicle drivers to date which have been referred to T&PH for licence revocation. Furthermore 334 drivers have had their PHV driver’s licences revoked by the T&PH to date with the remaining still being processed.



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