

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London, SE1 2AA

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

12 March 2015

Dear Boris

Transport Committee report into Taxi and Private Hire services

I am writing, in my capacity as Chair of the Transport Committee, regarding TfL's response to our report Future Proof: Taxi and Private Hire services in London.

We trust that you have now had the opportunity to read the report in full, and understand that you have discussed our findings with the Transport Commissioner.

We believe that it is vital to secure the future of both the licensed taxi and private hire industries in London, recognising that passengers welcome a diversity of safe, accessible and reliable services. We welcome Sir Peter Hendy's commitment to develop an over-arching strategy for these services and trust that you will fully endorse the need to take a new approach to handling some of the difficult issues facing these services.

We remain concerned, above all, with the difficulties around enforcement on issues such as touting. We urge you to ensure that both TfL and the Met use all available resources and techniques at their disposal to combat this issue in town centres across London, and that you will ensure that this issue is given due strategic focus.

As a committee, we are united in our view that many of the problems currently facing these industries can be tackled through inclusive and transparent dialogue with the trades and with passengers. We strongly urge you to ensure that TfL plays its part in creating a constructive environment for issues to be worked through. As discussed at our meeting with the Commissioner on 25 February, we believe an important first step would be to open up the Cabbies Cabinet to scrutiny. We therefore repeat our call, as endorsed by the Commissioner, for Assembly Members to be allowed to observe the proceedings of these meetings, and for full minutes to be made publicly available on TfL's website. We would also encourage you to give further consideration to seeking joint meetings with taxi and private hire representatives, who share many of the same concerns around issues such as enforcement, licensing and transparency.

We enclose a copy of our letter to Sir Peter requesting further details on a number of points in relation to TfL's formal response to our report. We look forward to continuing to work with you to address the issues affecting these trades in London, to ensure that the needs of passengers are fully addressed. We would be grateful if you could respond to the points raised in this letter by 12 April 2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Pidgeon', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee