

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

London Assembly
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Mr M Cash
General Secretary
National Union of Rail Maritime
and Transport Workers
Unity House
39 Chalton Street
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12 March 2015

Dear Mr Cash

Transport Committee report into Taxi and Private Hire services

Thank you for your letter regarding the Transport Committee's recent report into taxi and private hire services in London. We are grateful for your support for the Committee's findings and would like to thank your organisation for their helpful contribution to our investigation.

As you have noted, we are strongly supportive of the need for a long-term strategy for the future of the trades and recognise the importance of preserving the distinction between how taxi and private hire services operate within London. We recognise the benefits to clarifying existing regulation on this issue, both in terms of promoting passenger understanding and in ensuring that effective enforcement can be carried out. We are aware that the Law Commission review heard evidence of 'widespread dissatisfaction with the lack of clarity surrounding the concept of plying for hire', which is echoed in the evidence we heard from drivers and enforcement officials during our investigation. We understand that the Law Commission has proposed replacing the concept of plying for hire with a new scheme of offences which should be more workable in practice. Until any new legislation is put in place, we will continue to press TfL and the Police to enhance and improve their enforcement activities.

Thank you once again for your valuable contribution to the Committee's work.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee

