

LONDONASSEMBLY

Valerie Shawcross CBE AM, Chair of the Transport Committee

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

Sir Peter Hendy
Commissioner
Transport for London
Windsor House
42-50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

4 June 2015

Dear Sir Peter

Thank you for your letter of 30 April regarding the licensing of Uber London.

The Committee wishes to place on record its concern over TfL's handling of the process relating to the licensing of this organisation. We agree entirely that TfL as regulator should take all possible steps to ensure that any licensee is compliant with applicable legislation. Where an operating model departs significantly from that of existing services, we would expect TfL to also take steps to ensure its own position as a robust regulator and to be proactive in managing challenges to its regulatory authority. It is worrying that no legal opinion was taken on such a contentious issue until complaints were raised by the trades, and that no record of the advice received should have been retained by TfL to allow for the necessary scrutiny of this decision. This lack of clarity has in all likelihood contributed to the deterioration of the relationship between TfL and the taxi and private hire industries and we hope that TfL will carefully consider what steps it can take in future to ensure it meets its commitments both to greater transparency and to resilient regulation. If any further notes do exist regarding the legal advice received we would be grateful to receive these.

We share your hope that the issues pending before the High Court can be swiftly and decisively resolved. Nevertheless, the Committee remains deeply concerned at the continued lack of effective enforcement of legislation designed to protect public safety. We note the Mayor's commitment to investigating allegations relating to drivers who have not been licensed or vetted by TfL operating in London and we expect that TfL will take up this issue as a matter of urgency.

We recognise that the situation is extremely complex and look forward to discussing these issues further with Leon Daniels and Garrett Emmerson when they appear before the Committee in July, and to working with TfL to ensure a viable strategy for the future of the taxi and private hire industries in London.

Yours sincerely



Valerie Shawcross CBE AM
Chair of the Transport Committee