



# **Road Safety Concerns over Taxi/PH Apps put to the Mayor**

## **London Cab Drivers Club**

City Hall  
October 2016





# Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

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**20<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Dear Mayor,

## **Road safety relating to the use of apps and the publication of data by TfL**

I was very encouraged by your response to my questions at yesterday's Mayor's Question Time in relation to the use of apps by taxi and private hire drivers.

There are however a few issues I would like to seek further clarification from you following your answers, but also in relation to your letter to me dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> September (Your ref: MGLA140716-8417) and also in reply to written questions that I have asked.

### **Driving while reading and interacting with text messages**

I welcome your clear statement that reading and interacting with text messages on any type of app is never acceptable by a taxi or private hire driver while driving. Yet it is a traffic offence that so far has not been effectively enforced. Indeed I understand that amongst all motorists there were only 17,414 prosecutions in England and Wales for driving while using a phone, down from more than 32,500 in 2009. I understand that there may be technological solutions that would not allow a driver to interact with an app whilst a vehicle is moving. Such technology could be extended and enforced through regulation to ensure that no response to a text message can be made while a taxi or private hire vehicle is moving. The adoption of such technology, backed up and enforced by regulation, should be considered by TfL and I would urge you to consider this step.

### **Research into the use of apps**

In addition to giving consideration to new regulatory powers over the use of apps, I would also encourage TfL to undertake formal research into how apps are in practice being used.





Such research could include the use of 'mystery shopping' techniques so as to ensure that the real practice of the use of apps is fully understood by TfL.

**Publication of statistics relating to collisions involving taxis and private hire vehicles.**

I very much welcomed your clear assurance that the data relating to collisions and other incidents involving taxis and separately the data relating to private hire will be published, hopefully by next Spring. The publication of such data is very much needed and as I mentioned, vital to determining policy relating to regulation of the taxi and private hire industry.

I would welcome clear assurance from you that this data will be published at the very latest from next Spring, especially in light of delays that have occurred in the publication of other statistical information.

**Publication of statistics relating to sexual offences**

In answer to my written question 2016/1864, which I asked in June, it was stated that TfL is committed to publishing a range of figures in relation to Taxi and Private Hire enforcement data and this will include figures on sexual offences. Your reply further stated that TfL and the MPS are currently working together to establish how to present this data in a consistent format and will make it publicly available later in the summer.

I understand that this data still has not published. Could you provide an explanation for the delay in publishing this information and also an update as to when these statistics will finally be published?

I look forward to your detailed response on these issues.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM**

Liberal Democrat Member of the London Assembly

CC Val Shawcross, Deputy Mayor for Transport





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**WHAT DOES IT TAKE?**  
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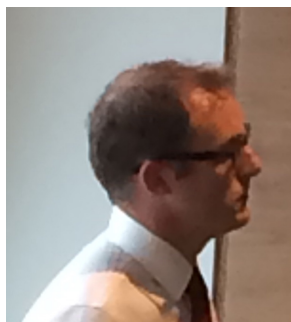
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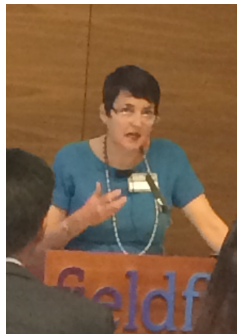
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Following her question to Sadiq Khan, London Assembly Member, Caroline Pidgeon, quickly fired off the letter above, thanking him for his assurances, but also asking for clarification on what further measures TfL TPH propose to bring in regarding the serious issues of public safety raised by the use of e-hailing Driver Apps highlighted by the LCDC earlier in the year.

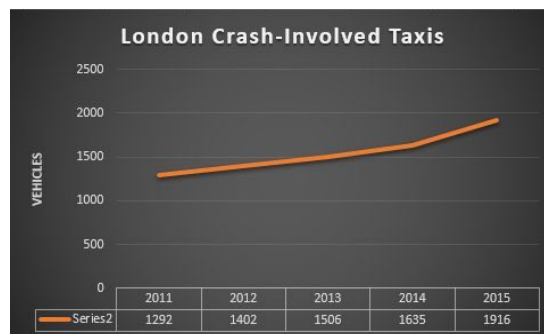
On September 12th, LCDC Reps met with TfL's Road Safety Team, led by Simon Bradbury, to make our concerns known about the huge increase in accidents involving PH Drivers using Apps on their smartphones.





LCDC's Chris Johnson, later asked Deputy Mayor for Transport, Valerie Shawcross CBE, at a Road Safety Seminar in the City of London, if she was concerned at the enormous increase. The Deputy Mayor gave a very comprehensive answer saying that TfL intended to bring in new Driving tests for PH Drivers.

Figures include both Taxi & PHV's and LCDC Reps have asked that Taxis be separated from PHV's in all data that affect our Trade & reputation



We look forward to meeting TfL's Road Safety Team again, to hear what further plans Simon Bradbury & Co., have come up with as the public safety of other road-users cannot continue to be compromised by the untrained, unskilled PH Industry.



# TfL: EVERY JOURNEY

# IN TATTERS...



SO MUCH FOR SAFER TRAVEL  
MANTRA, AS UBER DRIVERS  
WREAK HAVOC ACROSS CITY



Caroline Pidgeon's Question: No: 2016/3547.

Road safety and use of apps.

What are you doing to address safety concerns around the use of apps by taxi and private hire drivers?





