LTDA ASK PRIME MINISTER TO MOBILISE TAXI TRADE AGAINST COVID-19
Teen’s Use TikTok to Try and Prevent Uber Sex Assaults

When the point arrives, that young people feel so regularly fearful and vulnerable in Uber vehicles that they are creating fake videos to play on their phones, designed to intimidate Uber drivers into not sexually assaulting them – something is simply beyond wrong.

But that’s the reality.

Across the globe, young people are using TikTok to create videos in a variety of languages, designed to be played out loud in private hire vehicles, to this very end.

If right now you are wondering what TikTok might be, it’s a downloadable app which enables people to record and upload short pieces of video. Young people around the world have been using it as a platform to be heard and get noticed - particularly in regard to music and dance. The app has not been without controversy, yet is available in 150 countries and has over a billion users. Yes – a billion.

The videos are designed to be played via a passenger’s speakerphone, as a ‘received voicemail’ or ‘live video chat call.’ An example of one video currently trending, is by @graceighwells and is captioned: “Hi ladies, use this and stay safe if you get into a sketchy Uber…”

The choice for vulnerable Uber passengers ranges from messages left by concerned parents to live video chat calls with irate boyfriends and friends. The narrative of these messages is designed to scare drivers into believing one or more of the following:

- That the passenger is late and ‘concerned others’ are awaiting their prompt arrival.
- A ‘concerned other’ is tracking them through their phone’s GPS or other live app and know exactly where they are.
- That a ‘concerned other’ (of the big, burly, angry variety) will be setting off to intercept the private hire vehicle and come get said passenger or will be waiting outside to meet the PHV upon arrival.

Another video made by @chillibeatwave takes the form of a live video call. The contents of the call not only state that the caller knows their current location but goes on to casually mention in conversation that the passenger is carrying a ‘Swiss Army Knife’.

So, the point has now been reached, where a young person has felt the need to take the time to design a tool that communicates to private hire drivers that their passenger is carrying a potential weapon that may be used against them in self-defence. The teenagers and young people of this world are certainly resourceful creatures and credit to them for using their initiative to devise ways of protecting themselves from anticipated harm. But this surely is not their job and it might be argued that because of widespread dereliction of duty elsewhere, responses to the problem are being left in the hands of teens – and some of those responses are child-like and present their own dangers.

The sad reality, is that it’s horrifying that young people feel the need to resort to these lengths and disgusting if youth movements such as this, don’t tell licensing authorities everywhere, everything they need to know about how vulnerable and unsafe people really feel in Uber vehicles and respond accordingly. It should not be that young people feel that they have to take this situation into their own hands, in an attempt to address the dangers for which others are responsible for protecting them from.
A taxi army is available right now to provide immediate support

LTDA ASK PM TO MOBILISE TAXI TRADE

STEVEMCNAMARA

TOP TRADE STORY

As the number of people at work and on the streets continue to decline, our earning potential has now diminished to an unsustainable level. The Corona virus and any measures that government introduce are beyond our control - all we at the LTDA can do, is try and bring our plight to the attention of the authorities. I have called on the Chancellor to provide support for the trade, whether in the form of tax concessions, payment holidays or hard cash payments, to ensure that hard working cabbies can pay their bills and take care of their families. At the time of writing, there have been no announcements made as yet - but as soon as they are, the LTDA will be there to assist you in claiming all the support to which you are entitled. Black cab drivers are, the LTDA will be there to assist you in claiming all the support to which you are entitled. Black cab drivers are not receiving our updates, please contact info@ltda.co.uk or call on 0207 286 1046.

Alongside Government, I have been in constant contact with Mayor Sadiq Khan and Deputy Mayor for Transport, Heidi Alexander. I've been putting forward the experiences taxis drivers have been having during this outbreak, outlining what we have been doing and seeking support in all the areas described. I have also detailed how we need TfL to help struggling drivers, in the way of temporary licence extensions for drivers and vehicles, a relaxation of the age limits and a total cessation to camera issued PCN's for over-ranking.

I will be emailing our members with updates as events progress. If you are not receiving our updates, please contact info@ltda.co.uk or call on 0207 286 1046.

Steve McNamara
General Secretary, The Licensed Taxi Drivers’ Association (LTDA)
LEVC TXE’s NOW AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

LEVC Service & Warranty for all TXE’s & TX4’s

Insurance Approved Bodyshop
Non Fault Accident Management Schemes

0207 473 5169 or 0207 473 3796

info@e1taxis.co.uk
67 Stephenson Street London E16 4SA
Budget Strikes At ‘Hidden Economy’ PHV Trade

TRADE

The Government is to legislate in the 2020-21 Finance Bill that moving forward, to make the renewal of licences to drive Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles, such as Minicabs – will require applicants to successfully complete checks to confirm that they are ‘appropriately registered for tax.’

The introduction of this new measure aims to rid the trade of those drivers who are not tax registered and ducking paying their contributions.

But it doesn’t end there. ‘Conditionality point 2.252’, on page 97 of the budget, also states that to ‘…operate PHV firms...’ will require the successful completion of checks to confirm appropriate registration for tax as well...

The LTDA will be raising this matter at the highest levels of government to ensure that this is applied to ALL Private Hire Operators – especially in reference to those companies that currently dodge their tax liabilities.

Octopus Announce Aid Package for Drivers

TRADE

Pay as you drive operator, Octopus are supporting drivers and fleets by resetting their minimum payment calculation.

A press release on March 17th announced that Octopus have made the decision to reset the latest six-monthly minimum mileage calculations for all drivers to start from 1st April 2020.

As of March 20th, Octopus have gone a step further and introduced an additional measure: a three-month payment holiday for mileages driven in the months of March, April and May 2020.

The mileages driven during these three months will continue to be logged but drivers will not be billed in this period. Instead, the total mileage costs covered in March, April and May will be recovered in 24 equal instalments from drivers’ monthly direct debits over the subsequent two years. This will allow drivers to continue using their vehicles without any immediate need to pay for the associated mileage.

TFL Update on Rapid Charge Point Infrastructure

TRADE

TfL has delivered 246 Rapid Charge Points (RCP) sites across London to date.

* 73 of these RCPs are dedicated to taxis.
* Further RCP sites, provided by independent charge point operators, can be found on zap-map.com.
* City Hall have created a map of RCPs – with data taken from both TfL and other charge point companies: https://maps.london.gov.uk/ev-chargepoints/

Hub sites

Following the delivery of the first hub site – at Stratford International at the end of last year – TfL are working on a number of other locations:

Baynard House Car Park

Core works within the car park are due to complete end of March/early April. The site is expected to go live in the summer following the completion of upgrade works by the City of London. Once complete the site will accommodate 6 RCP units.

Glass Yard

The detailed design is being finalised and the main build on site is due to commence in April.

TfL state that they are continuing to work with a number of private landowners for the delivery of further hub sites across London and other potential hub site locations continue to be investigated.

2.252 Conditionality: Hidden economy – The government will legislate in Finance Bill 2020-21 to make the renewal of licenses to drive taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs, e.g. minicabs), operate PHV firms, and deal in scrap metal conditional on applicants completing checks that confirm they are appropriately registered for tax. This measure will make it more difficult for non-compliant traders to operate in the hidden economy and help level the playing field for the compliant majority. These changes will take effect in England and Wales in April 2022. The government is considering extending this reform to Scotland and Northern Ireland in the future and will work with the devolved administrations to this effect. (58)
The fact that the Trade is currently transitioning itself into a low emission fleet with vehicles that are also almost silent.

And importantly, that the Council’s Consultation had revealed a substantial majority of local residents had voted for the inclusion of Taxis.

At the end of that meeting, the Mayor and his colleagues suggested that we should meet again after three months when the scheme would have had time to bed in.

So subsequently, another meeting was put in the book to take place on 17th March. Unfortunately, by this time the world had dramatically changed, and we were not able to meet face to face but had to make do with a hastily arranged conference call. This call was much more difficult than these calls usually are, because we had six people using mobile phones all calling in from different locations which rendered the meeting a little complicated in terms of poor line quality, people talking over each other, and of actually recognising who was speaking. However, despite all the difficulties we did eventually manage to have a reasonable conversation. We went over much of the same ground as in our previous meeting but in the interim the LTDA had been meeting up with local resident groups and had garnered a lot of support for the Trade’s inclusion in the scheme. The Mayor stated that one of his concerns was that if the Council were to allow Taxi access, then it would undoubtedly face a backlash from the Private Hire trade. We were able to show that Taxis have higher standards and are a different trade to private hire and that has been evidenced by Taxis inclusion in Bus Lanes while PHV’s are excluded and by Taxi being exempt from the Congestion Charge while PHV’s are not. We also suggested that other WAV’s (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles) could also be exempted including those that operate as Private Hire Vehicles.

It seemed that the Council had been looking at ways to mitigate the effects on Taxis and a suggestion was put forward about siting taxi ranks and taxi only electric charging points close to the barrier. It also seems apparent that the Council may be considering allowing electric taxis through the barrier.

It was agreed that we should meet again as soon as possible - hopefully after normality has been restored and when the Council would be able to review its scheme.

With all the grave news concerning the virus at the moment it is difficult to concentrate on these kind of issues and with many of the people and agencies that we interact with in self imposed lock-down, it will be difficult to achieve much for several months at least - but we will continue to do everything we possibly can over this very difficult period.

Richard Massett, LTDA Chairman,
and Chairman of the London Cab Ranks Committee
Taxi Brain Update

Spiers Lab’s new taxi driver brain imaging study is now underway and has been piloted with a few drivers who completed a route planning task on a laptop.

In this task, taxi drivers were asked to plan routes across London, using Google Street View images to support their navigation. In total, drivers each planned 150 London runs. For each run, drivers were presented with an image of the starting point follow by an image of the destination and then given a few seconds to plan the direct route of travel they would take between these two points (as if it was an appearance run).

The points were chosen from all across London to create runs of varying length, difficulty, and direction.

Even though this task reminded them of their ‘appearances’, the taxi drivers reported the task to be ‘fun’ and ‘not tiring’, despite the task time of about one hour. So far, Spiers Lab staff say that all of the participants remarked that they found the task engaging and suitably challenging - similar to what they do on a daily basis.

There are now 40 taxi drivers signed up to take part in the experiment. UCL are planning to test more taxi drivers on the route planning task in the coming weeks… fancy giving it a go?

In the next couple of months, UCL are intending to start MRI scanning taxi drivers’ brains – specifically the hippocampus, which is renowned to be bigger in those with ‘The Knowledge.’ (This will however be dependent on the status of COVID-19 in London).

Spiers Lab are also working closely with functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) technicians at the Birkbeck-UCL Centre for Neuroimaging (BUCNI) who are assisting, to ensure everything runs smoothly.

If you are interested in participating or would like to know how you can help this research, contact the Taxi Brains team at UCL on 07763321216 (Mon-Fri, 10.00-16.00) or spierslab@ucl.ac.uk.

UCL Need Your Taxi Brain!

Your Taxi Brain can help researchers at UCL better understand the decline of navigation ability in those with onset of dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease.

Fancy helping researchers understand how the human brain can plan routes across a complex real-world environment of more than 60,000 streets and 100,000 points of interest?

There’s tea, biscuits and a tenner an hour in it for you as well!

The Taxi Brains team at UCL’s Spiers’ Lab need you, your massive hippocampus and your ‘Knowledge’!

---

TFL ARE OFFERING UP TO £8,000 FOR TAXI DRIVERS DELICENSING THEIR EURO 3, 4 AND 5 VEHICLES*

That’s up to £8,000 towards the purchase of a new TX.

Find out more at www.levc.com/tflfund

Alternatively speak to us about a part exchange on your new TX – we are offering up to £3,500 more on part ex valuations of selected TX4 models.**

www.levc.com/valuemytaxi or call 0203 912 6214

---

*The TfL delicensing fund is available for taxi drivers who want to delicense their Euro 3, 4 or 5 vehicles. For more details on scheme eligibility please refer to https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/taxis-and-private-hire/taxi-delicensing-scheme
**Inflated offer prices are typically available on late Euro 5 and Euro 6 TX4 models in good condition and with full service history. All used vehicle offers are made at the discretion of the LEVC Brewery Road team. Terms and conditions apply.
As the pandemic continues to evolve, we have all been getting mixed messages from the government - don’t go to pubs restaurants etc, but as self-employed taxi drivers, it’s our job to keep London moving and with the roads almost empty and less passengers requiring our services, this is resulting in drivers facing serious hardship. We need help now, not later, from Government and every source possible for drivers. This is a very difficult time for the taxi trade and no doubt drivers will face financial crises that will take them a very long time to recover from. If London is empty and work levels drop, how do we earn our livings to put food on the table and pay monthly outgoings? What we are facing in the next few months is the uncertainty of not knowing when normality might return.

We have been taking hundreds of calls a day from concerned drivers on the Coronavirus and how they can receive help with their financial situation. The LTDA have been extremely proactive from the start, contacting finance companies to see how they can help with drivers paying their monthly payments also the HMRC, Transport for London, Banks, mortgage lenders, cab rental garages, credit card providers… the list goes on.

What follows is an executive summary from those inquiries, though it is pertinent to note that the response from garages especially, in stepping up and helping drivers at this worrying time has been phenomenal:

- Ascott’s gave £50 reduction for drivers in the first week of this crisis and were so concerned about how bad things would get for drivers, (and understanding without the drivers they haven’t got a business) have decided to offer the drivers free rent from the 23rd March to the 1st May and this will be reviewed at a later date. They currently have no cabs to rent.

- Colt’s Cabs have reduced their cab rents by 50% for drivers.

- Octopus have made the decision to reset the latest six-monthly minimum mileage calculations for all drivers to start from 1st April 2020, providing extra payment flexibility.

- LEVC & Black Horse, have agreed to support customers by offering a 3-month suspension of finance payments on existing finance contracts for TX customers. (That’s essentially a 3 month payment holiday)

- Anyone that has taken out a Black Horse finance product for the purchase of their TX can apply for this payment suspension.

- Transport for London have been contacted with our concerns and we’ve asked them to be mindful of the following:

   i) Issuing PCN’s at Buckingham Palace Road, Melton St and other hotspots.

   ii) That if NSL test centres close down, to have provisions in place for those drivers needing a cab licence, inclusive of if drivers need to renew licences (Bill), and to be understanding when medicals and are due and drivers are unable to get an appointment with a GP.

   iii) We’re asking TFL to apply common sense in reference to ‘driver need’ and to be practical and considerate, helping keep drivers working during this difficult time.

It’s perhaps worth remembering that all these aid packages and discounts are at the expense of garages and companies who have themselves, big overheads and are also taking massive financial hits. From my perspective, this is incredible support from the trade at this critical time.

---

**THE FIGHTING SPIRIT**

**STREETS AHEAD**

‘Incredible support from the Trade at a critical time.’

**Boxing Cabbie Dean Richardson Retains Southern Area Title**

**SPORT**

On Saturday 14th March, Hammersmith based boxer Dean Richardson (12-0) defended his Southern Area super-welterweight title with a seventh-round stoppage win over Konrad Stempkowski (9-3).

Richardson was in control and on the front foot against a solid opponent in Stempkowski, who took consistent shots to the head throughout the duration. The referee stepped in and stopped the contest in round seven, during a sustained flurry of combinations from the London Taxi driver. To be fair to Stempkowski, he was still trying to cover up and protect himself from the onslaught but the referee deemed that he was clearly taking too much punishment from the relentless Cabbie.

This now being his fourth consecutive stoppage, the super-welterweight title holder took to social media the following morning:

“Sometimes you gotta win ugly! Hard fought victory last night. Not feeling 100%, fatigue set in sooner than usual and I veered from the game plan but dug in to get the win.”

Richardson graciously went on to give full credit to his defeated opponent, Stempkowski.

This Taxi Driver from South Ruislip - remains undefeated. Congratulations Deano.
Save up to 48% on your card payment fees

Next day payments - 6 days per week (excludes Sundays and Bank Holidays)
No contract • No hidden fees • Tip prompt
24/7 UK transaction telephone support • PCI compliant
Accepts Contactless • Daily, weekly or monthly statements
Pay as you go mobile payment system • Free App

www.cabpay.co.uk  020 7655 6970
Office opening hours Monday - Friday 08.30 - 17.30

CABVISION NETWORK LTD. IS AUTHORISED BY THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY (FCA). REGISTRATION NUMBER 910574
With cash no longer king, payments via coin of the realm are rapidly declining in favour of the much more convenient card and app payment system.

An unexpected knock-on effect, seems to have emerged with the custom of tipping going into decline for many service industry workers, including taxi drivers. In 2009, cash was used in six out of ten transactions, however in the last decade card transactions have overtaken all other forms of payment.

In one anecdotal story, an attentive staff member in a restaurant was heard telling a customer, that ‘tips could only be paid in cash’. After scrabbling around for loose change, the customer was only able to produce a few ‘bits of shrapnel’, leaving them both a little embarrassed.

But what is the customary tip when travelling in a taxi?

According to travel guide, ‘Visit London’, generally a tip between 10 and 15% for a taxi journey should suffice. Rounding - up a fare is also acceptable. However, it is emerging that the decline in tipping cabbies for providing a good service may be attributed to a couple of factors, one of those factors may be down to the use of contactless card payment systems.

The convenience of tapping and leaving a vehicle has sped up payment, as a consequence, customers are forgetting to add a gratuity. Another factor is that despite having the ability to add a gratuity when using a taxi via an app, some customers don't necessarily adjust their settings to facilitate adding a tip.

Since 31 October 2016, Transport for London have required that all London taxis carry a working credit card system in the rear of their vehicle. There are numerous different credit card units approved for use by the industry, which do offer a gratuity system. How gratuities are implemented differ from unit to unit - some systems have to be “set” by the driver to ask for a gratuity, whereas others may offer a recommended amount, or not prompt the customer to tip at all.

Of course, a gratuity is not mandatory, and nor should it be expected, there are in fact subtle differentials in taxi tipping across the globe. In the USA, Canada and Caribbean a couple of dollars will suffice for a short ride - though 10-15% of the fare is the norm. The same applies in most middle eastern countries and in France, Russia and Switzerland. Across the African continent, rounding-up is accepted practice, though in countries with mass tourism, it is usual for a driver to expect 10%. Drivers in China, South Korea, Dubai, Scandinavia and Iceland don't customarily expect to receive a tip. In Spain, tipping a cab is not the norm either, however when they do receive a tip, they are in fact the highest tipped taxi drivers per cost of journey in Europe, with a whopping 11.44% of their fare coming from a gratuity, according to a survey undertaken by blogsite ‘taxi2airport’.

It’s not all doom and gloom though, as thankfully, online travel advice sites still generally recommend that visitors to the UK tip cabbies the customary 10-15% for good service.

All a taxi driver has to do now is to keep the customer mindful of converting the old “keep the change” rounding up of cash, to that of a card payment.

- Steve Kenton
EXCLUSIVE FLEET INSURANCE OFFER

- Great savings for camera/tracker users
- Premiums from as little as £950
- Personal, professional service with online & mobile documentation
- Full claims handling service with non-fault replacement vehicles provided within 24 hours

Call us for more info

0208 885 8666

OR FIND US ONLINE: TAXIWORLD.CO.UK / PATONSINSURANCE.CO.UK

PAYMENT | CCTV | INSURANCE | METERS

*Terms and conditions apply - call for details.*
As I write this piece, it’s the night of Wednesday the 18th and today’s Government press conference has once again failed to highlight what they are intending to do for the self-employed by way of assistance throughout this unprecedented period in our history.

Today alone, I have spoken with more than 50 drivers who are concerned with, ‘how things will pan out’ and of course, the truth is - we just don’t know, no-one does. We don’t know if we will have things as bad as Italy or if you can believe the figures that China publish, though we appear to have a similar curve to them. Government can put into play all the plans they want but whether the British public follow it, remains to be seen. I truly hope that by the time you read this publication, once it hits London’s streets on Tuesday, the Government has done the right thing and put appropriate measures in place. I know either way, we will continue to do all we can to help keep drivers updated and informed.

So, what can you do today in the first instance, if you haven’t already? Firstly, you should look at your biggest outgoings and contact those providers to try and arrange for holiday payments. Typically, the biggest outgoings for most, will be mortgage, cab loan and credit cards. Most mortgage providers are offering a 3-month payment holiday, likewise credit card providers are also offering payment holidays and to freeze interest or lower minimum payments to help. In many cases, for those close to, or at their limit - they are offering to increase credit limits. Whilst it’s not ideal to borrow your way out of trouble, it’s what countries all over the globe are currently doing to stabilise the economy, and at the end of the day, we all have to do whatever it takes for our families.

You should have read elsewhere in this issue what LEVC & Mercedes are doing so I won’t repeat that.

There are many questions drivers have had, aside from the financial aspect of what lies ahead, like ‘Can we still work throughout a lockdown?’ I don’t know what our Government will decide, but what I can say, is that throughout Europe, many cities (such as Rome), still permit their Taxi drivers to work and we have to date, no indication that it will be different here - in fact, we are working very hard to try and make sure ‘the powers that be’ use us when sourcing additional transport needs.

I wish I had all the answers, I really do - but this unprecedented situation is outside the remit & experience of just about everyone, though the following organisations provide helpful sources of information:

- Citizens Advice Bureau 03444 111 444
- National DEBTLINE 0808 808 4000
- UNIVERSAL CREDIT 0800 328 5644
- HMRC helpline for Tax & benefit advice 03004 563565
- Samaritans 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org
- https://www.turn2us.org.uk/ is a good website with up to date advice, benefit calculators and a plain English explanation of what you can find on the official Government website.

Of course, we will continue to do all we can to keep you updated and for members, we will remain available at the other end of the phone, throughout.

We’re seeing & hearing many positive stories about cabbies going above and beyond to help others - which is of no surprise to me - but unbelievably we’re still seeing some, taking the opportunity to have a dig at others or starting silly rumours on social media platforms. Please give it a rest, it’s not helpful at the best of times but in the current circumstances, it’s absolutely disgraceful.

Paul Brennan, LTDA Executive
You’ll find more at our Brewery Road based dealership, home to the largest TX electric taxi showroom and a wide range of manufacturer approved used TX4 stock for sale.

Did you know we offer...

- Free 48hr TX test drives available
- Inflated part exchange values on TX4s*
- Manufacturer approved used TX4 Euro 5/6 for sale with 1 year warranty
- Rapid charging points available
- Parts delivery service
- Delicense and funding application support
- Hire Purchase, PCP and Pay as You Drive finance options
- Accident repair and management

To find out more or use our services, visit our website or give us a call today

levc.com/BR  0203 912 6214

Or pop into our Showroom

*Inflated offer prices are typically available on late Euro 5 and Euro 6 TX4 models in good condition and with full service history. All used vehicle offers are made at the discretion of the LEVC Brewery Road team. Terms and conditions apply.
Central London Taxi Hire LTD

We have just placed the BIGGEST ever order in the history of LEVC for **250** brand new TX Electric Taxis

Brand new in the box TX Electric Taxis

**ALSO TX4 EURO 5 & EURO 6 AVAILABLE**

For details and to add yourself to the waiting list please get in touch

**Office:** 020 7613 4442 **Mobile:** 07714821482

**Email:** cs.taxis@yahoo.co.uk
What a Lotto Dough!

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to Richard Freeman! Richard has been an LTDA member for 18 years and buys a couple of tickets every month and this month hit the jackpot winning £5K!

Upon being presented with a cheque for £5,000 Richard reckons that he’ll likely blow the money on a holiday - though will also ‘be treating family and friends’ plus ‘holding a bit back to help absorb any financial impacts of the Coronavirus’ that may come his way.

You’ve probably heard of the LTDA Lottery. What you might not know, is that since it started in 1986, there have been over 360 winners. That’s over £1,800,000 million paid out in prize money. But you won’t win it - if you’re not in it.

Tickets cost £5 each per month. And even if you don’t win, you’ll know that proceeds from the lottery contribute towards LTDA advertising campaigns.

If you are a member and interested in ‘being in it’ - call 020 7286 1046 and ask about the LTDA Lottery.

The LTDA members forum that was due to be held on Wednesday April 22nd is now postponed due to current circumstances. We will update you with a new date as soon as we are able.
LTDA member rewards has been on the hunt for some great Easter offers and discounts

Looking for ideas for the Easter weekend? LTDA Plus has offers on family days out, spa retreats and weekend breaks in the sun.

17% off Worldwide Attraction Tickets
This Easter, book attractions, excursions, theatre tickets and experiences all over the world with Onlineticketstore.co.uk. Whether it’s a week at Disney World, a dinner cruise in Dubai or a day trip in Rome, you can look forward to hassle-free booking 24/7, instant e-tickets and unbearable customer service. LTDA members receive a 17% discount*. View more information at LTDA Plus

Catch the latest blockbusters and save money on tickets
Get up to 40% off cinema tickets to the latest releases including Trolls World Tour, Disney’s Onward and Mulan. Enjoy great savings at over 300 venues both local and nationwide chains such as ODEON, Vue and Cineworld*. View more information at LTDA Plus

5% discount on your tailor-made Easter holiday
It’s Your Holiday is ABTA, and ATOL bonded with access to the best travel rates in the industry. We can help you book the perfect Easter break. We work in partnership with over 300 travel partners including; Expedia, TUI, Jet2Holidays, Haven, Hoseasons and many more. Let us help you make memories that last forever*. View more information at LTDA Plus

20% discount on Virgin Experience Days
Treat a loved one, or even yourself with an indulgent treat, fantastic day out, or once-in-a-lifetime experience! We have teamed up with Virgin Experience Days to offer you a 20% discount on over 2,500 experiences – including special offers! So just what is a Virgin Experience Days voucher? It’s a gift the goes the extra mile to offer something memorable, different and fun, whatever you’re into. It’s a memory to make at your own convenience, delivered as a stylish Virgin gift voucher, so you know you’re receiving quality*. View more information at LTDA Plus

To take advantage of these and other fantastic deals visit the LTDA Plus Special Offers page today!
*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. See website for details. Offers subject to change without notice. The Cinema Society - Discounts vary between cinema venues. Please check when purchasing vouchers, registration to The Cinema Society required to access discount. Travel by luxury - 5% discount on cruises does not apply to all cruise companies/cruise offers. If you telephone Inspire to book or enquire about a cruise, you will be advised whether the discount can be applied. Virgin Experience Days - Discount code cannot be used against their Excluded Range. LTDA Plus is managed and run on behalf of LTDA by Parliament Hill Ltd.
LETTERS

STARS LETTER

ALLAN SAYS: ‘DO YOUR JOB!’

Today I picked up two very nice ladies from Kings Cross station. One of them was in an electric wheelchair and had breathing apparatus, her name is Emma. Her friend I believe was her colleague or carer. I got chatting with them because I’d noticed when they were at the front of the queue, the person behind tried to push in front, as if Emma was invisible! I have a 5 year old son who uses a (self-propelling) wheelchair, as he was born with Spina Bifida, and so has next to no use of his legs, so I’m always keen to talk to other wheelchair users about their experience as an adult, partly to gain some advice and reassurance that I can end up in a wheelchair. Everyone holds back and her friends will hail the cab appearing to be alone, and then usher Emma over once the door is open! This is simply disgusting behaviour from the drivers that do this. People in wheelchairs are still people who need to get around town, who are happy to pay their way like the rest of society, and because of the laziness of some drivers, are discriminated against. Here is a message for those drivers: Do your job! Anyone can end up in a wheelchair.

Allan Sanders

Editors response:

The Editors would like to echo Allan Sanders’ view: ‘Do your job!’ Anyone can end up in a wheelchair.

There are 13.9 million people in the UK living with an impairment or disability according to the charity London’s population is approximately 8.8 million which means there are potentially 1.7 million people (aka passengers and paying customers) for whom getting around and about in this wonderful city isn’t as wonderful as it should be.

TFL buses are free for wheelchair users but only offer one dedicated wheelchair user space, (on a first come first served basis) and only 25% of tube stations and 50% of ‘overground’ stations offer ‘step free’ access, according to info on TFL’s website. It’s also a point of consideration that no amount of pre-travel planning can eliminate being stranded by unforeseen events, such as a lift being out of order.

Private hire cabs are often family saloon cars which are designed for able bodied persons. This means wheelchair passengers need to be able get out of their chair and sit in a car seat. The boot has to be big enough to carry a wheelchair and the driver has to be amiable and strong enough to perform the folding, storing and unfolding operations.

But of course, London taxis are wheelchair accessible, providing a passenger with a dignified entrance to the vehicle. Add to this the grab handles - which are brightly coloured to aid those with visual impairments; the induction loops and intercoms on newer taxis for those with hearing difficulties; and the door to door service, it means the taxi trade are best equipped to provide wheelchair users with a better London travel experience. Like Allan says, ‘anyone can end up in a wheelchair’ – Here’s hoping Emma’s experiences have been isolated incidents and Allan’s letter reaches the eyes of any drivers who may need to read it the most.

THANK YOU LONDON CABBIES

Hi. My name is Patrick Gibson and I am writing with a sincere request.

A few weeks ago, on a long weekend with a friend in London, we had occasion to utilise the black cabs to get about. Now we had been told so many daft tales about London cab drivers being rude and overpriced.

With all the respect I can muster, nothing could have been further from the truth. The cabs we got were driven by guys who were utterly engaging and helpful, giving advice and suggestions and on a few journeys the drivers were hilariously funny.

So, with your help and indulgence, would you say thanks to the cabbies in London for me, the ones we met genuinely added to a great weekend.

Short and Sons Accountants Ltd
T: 01784 390021
M: 07481 479933
www.shortandsons.co.uk
sales@shortandsons.co.uk

£200 Tax Returns
6th Apr to 5th May

1. SAS is 100% owned by a Black Cab Driver.
2. Tax Returns £200 – how much are you paying?
3. Zero time off – Meet us while at work!
4. Find out what you owe on 31st Jan 2021 today.
5. Depreciation of cabs utilised effectively
6. PAYE & Self-employment combo no problem.
7. Property rentals included in the calculation.
8. 5-star reviews & easy switching process!
W hilst on the Knowledge, I became fascinated by the hidden stories associated with London’s countless streets and points. I’ve been passionate about the city’s history ever since - and have discovered that sharing these tales with the public often results in a nice tip!

If when this virus finally lets go of London, someone jumps into the cab and asks for “the waxworks”, the go-to place would of course be Madame Tussauds. This major attraction was first opened on Baker Street in 1835 by Marie Tussaud and shifted to its present location on Marylebone Road in 1884.

Tussaud wasn’t the first sculptor to display waxworks in London, however. Decades before, another woman - an American named Patience Lovell Wright - opened a similar workshop in the city. And with it came a remarkable secret.

Patience was born into a Quaker family on Long Island in 1725 and displayed impressive artistic skills from an early age. She married in her early 20s but was widowed at 44. This created considerable financial difficulty as the law at the time forbade wives from inheriting their husband’s land. Fortunately, Patience had great business acumen and, using her artistic dexterity, began taking commissions for three-dimensional portraits sculpted from wax. The idea proved to be an immediate hit and those who posed in Patience’s studio quickly warmed to her down to earth, chatty nature.

So successful was Patience that within a year she had established a showroom in New York. Calamity struck however one evening in 1771 when a pair of curtains caught fire, resulting in a blaze which melted most of her creations. Undeterred, Patience resolved to begin again, this time in London.

As luck would have it, Patience was friends with Jane Mecom, the youngest and much-beloved sister of Benjamin Franklin. During this period Franklin was living and working in London as the representative of Pennsylvania - his home, 36 Craven Street, still stands today as a museum. Jane was more than happy to write Patience a letter of introduction; after all, if anyone could spread the word about Patience’s talents, it was her brother who was a popular and well-respected figure amongst London society.

After a rough winter voyage, Patience arrived in London in February 1772 and immediately headed to Craven Street where she presented Jane’s letter to Franklin. She also had a sample piece - a bust of New York’s lieutenant governor, Cadwallader Colden. So impressed was Franklin that the pair quickly became friends and he offered to display the artwork in his house as an advertisement. For her wax portraits, Patience charged 50 guineas - roughly £6000 in today’s money.

Patience established her studio at 30 Suffolk Street; approximately where the Philippine Embassy stands today. She soon began to receive wealthy customers, the most notable being King George III and his wife, Charlotte. When entertaining the royal couple, Patience broke protocol by using their first names. The King and Queen didn’t seem to mind however and were apparently charmed by the eccentric American.

The 1770s however were a time of increasing political unrest with growing calls for American independence - a movement which Patience wholeheartedly supported. With government agents and other establishment figures popping by to view the waxworks, Patience was in a position to overhear much political gossip, the content of which she quietly divulged to Benjamin Franklin.

By the time the American War of Independence had erupted in 1776, Patience had become a fully-fledged spy. Any intelligence she received would be written down on tiny bits of paper which were then concealed within waxworks and shipped to America. These were intercepted on the other side of the Atlantic by her sister, Rachel who would pass the intel on, to the relevant authority.

So passionate was Patience about independence, she believed a similar revolution for the poor and oppressed was desperately needed in Britain - and that Benjamin Franklin was the man to spark it. Unfortunately, no doubt as he had more than enough of his own problems to contend with - Franklin dismissed the idea and their friendship drifted apart.

As the Revolutionary War raged on, Patience’s American roots put her at a disadvantage and her business began to suffer. She moved to Paris but returned to London in 1782, taking a new studio on Charles II Street. Her luck improved when she received a commission from none other than George Washington. Tragically, Patience would never have the chance to meet America’s first President. Just days before she was due to depart for America in early 1786, she fell ill and died. Patience was buried in London but the whereabouts of her grave is now a mystery.

Today just one of Patience Lovell Wright’s waxworks survives - a life-sized figure of former Prime Minister, William Pitt the Elder. This rare sculpture dates from 1778 and is housed within the Westminster Abbey Museum.
THE ENDEAVOUR
HIGH 5!
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

5 YEARS SERVICING
5 YEARS WARRANTY
5 YEARS PAINT PROTECTION

LIMITED TIME ONLY
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

DRIVE AWAY YOUR NEW ELECTRIC TAXI FROM JUST £184 PER WEEK!*

But hurry, taxis MUST be ordered and delivered by 31st March 2020 to qualify for this fantastic offer!

- New TX Electric Taxi Showroom
- Demonstrator available for Test Drives
- Taxi Servicing & Bodyshop
- Rapid 22kW Charging Points available
- Meter & CC Payment Machine fitting on-site
- TX4 Part Exchanges welcome

Pop in and we’d be delighted to show you round our new premises and talk you through some of the groundbreaking features of the new TX Electric Taxi.

AFTERSALES @ LEVC WEST LONDON

- Factory trained LEVC technicians & recently extended workshop
- While you wait appointments – subject to availability
- Plate loan vehicles available – subject to availability
- Free vehicle wash & vacuum
- Free vehicle health check
- Free software update
- Great coffee and a warm welcome!

LEVC West London 110 Power Road, Chiswick W4 5PY
020 3897 3722 www.levcwestlondon.co.uk

TX Vista Representative Example
Weekly Equivalent £183.92 • 60 Monthly Payments £183.92 • Customer Deposit £3,750 • 60% Deposit AAP • Duration of Agreement 60 months • Mileage per annum 30,000 • Excess mileage charge 6ppm

*Business users only. Finance illustration refers to Personal Contract Purchase 7.3% APR Representative; figures based on TX Vista with a customer deposit of £3,750, followed by 60 monthly payments plus an optional final payment. Based upon an annual contracted mileage of 30,000 (150,000 miles over term). All prices inclusive of VAT. £0 deposits may be available. Two, three & five year plans are also available. Three years 120,000 miles comprehensive vehicle / five years unlimited mileage drive battery warranties included. You have the option at the end of the agreement to return the vehicle and not pay the Final Payment. If the vehicle has exceeded the allowed mileage a charge per excess mile will apply. In this example, 6p per excess mile. If the vehicle is in good condition and has not exceeded the allowed mileage a £5,000 customer deposit will be returned. Credit subject to status; finance provided by Black Horse Finance a trading style of Black Horse Ltd. St William’s House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. Excludes Meter, credit card equipment and any local authority fees. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. OTR figure is net of OLEV Plug in Taxi Grant which is up to £7,500 and is subject to European Whole Vehicle Type Approval and European Commission state aid notification. All prices and promotions are valid for vehicles ordered and delivered before 31st March 2020.
Jobs on tap
Keeping you busy

Download at d.free-now.com or swing by the Driver Office on Great Suffolk St.
Veterans visit North Cheam Sports and Social Club

On 5 March the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans escorted over 100 veterans to the North Cheam Sports and Social Club for lunch

The veterans were invited by Taxi Charity supporter and friend, Tony Millard, the Manager of the North Cheam Sports and Social Club, for one final veterans’ lunch before the club closes later this year.

Ian Parsons, Chairman, The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans, said, “Tony Millard is the most generous publican I have ever known. Every year since 2012, he has organised a wonderful lunch for the veterans which they always thoroughly enjoy. Tony is a great supporter of the charity and has raised thousands of pounds for us over the years and we are very grateful for everything he has done to promote the work we do.”

Marie Scott, a veteran WREN, who sent messages to and from the beaches on D Day, said “I have been lucky enough to attend several of the lunches that Tony has organised at North Cheam Sports and Social Club. They are always a super event, all the staff look after us so well, and we all have a great time catching up with our friends.”

After lunch The Taxi Charity thanked Tony Millard, for his many years of support and presented him with a framed photograph of their WWII veteran collection team who raise money for the club by shaking their buckets at train stations across London.

About the Taxi Charity
The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans was formed in Fulham in 1948, to work for the benefit, comfort and enjoyment of military veterans and arranges many trips every year for veterans from all conflicts.

The charity offers international trips to The Netherlands, Belgium and France, UK day trips to concerts or museums, transport to attend fundraising events, as well as special days out to catch up with friends and comrades.

To fund and facilitate these outings, the charity is wholly reliant on generous donations from members of the public, businesses and trusts and the amazing group of London licensed taxi drivers who offer their time and vehicles free. www.taxicharity.org
T he Money Talks article back in the 11th February edition of Taxi made an interesting read. The article compared the price of the LEVC TXe with high-end SUVs - the conclusion being, that prices are roughly similar. In addition, the three SUVs illustrated, only deliver a working electrical range of around 25 miles. In my humble opinion, they are boring and ugly vehicles to boot.

Many people assume the TXe is over-priced, but this isn’t necessarily true. The TXe is expensive compared with a car - but it’s not really a car, it’s a purpose-built taxi. It’s specialist vehicle. The TXe, like the TX4, and the FX models preceding it, is more a car more than a van, but it’s still a taxi. With the Mercedes Vito we had the first converted taxi van, or if you like, a taxi/van hybrid. It had its supporters. Personally, I think it’s too van-like and too big. Vito’s are sometimes used as minicabs, which also puts me off. It’s also expensive for a van.

I think the Ford Galaxy - used by our Addison Lee friends, is a nicer vehicle but we’re restricted to its supporters. Personally, I think it’s too van-like and too big. Vito’s are sometimes used as minicabs, which also puts me off. It’s also expensive for a van.

I think the Ford Galaxy - used by our Addison Lee friends, is a nicer vehicle but we’re restricted to what vehicle we can use, as all routes lead back to the 25-feet turning circle. Taxi drivers in the provinces aren’t restricted by archaic rules and van conversions dominate in many towns. There are just a handful of TX4s in Leighton Buzzard where I live. I use local cabs occasionally, but even holding back at the ranks when I’m on my way home from the pub or train station, I’ve never managed to snap up a TX. Some of the van cabs are awful. A ride home is never the occasion it would be in London. It’ll be interesting to see if the TXe or Dynamo makes inroads in the provinces. I’ve yet to see a Central Bedfordshire-licensed TXe, possibly because of a lack of electrical charging points. I’m still amazed they’ve sold so many in London.

I don’t recognise the ‘SUV’ Americanisation. In fact, I had to look it up. I thought perhaps SUV stood for, ‘Standard Ugly Vehicle’ but it’s actually, ‘Sport Utility Vehicle.’ I think that means ‘4x4 or Jeep’ in English. No taxi is comparable in style to an SUV but it’s definitely comparable to what I’d call ‘a People Carrier.’ I’d never consider my cab a people carrier, although that’s essentially what it is. The Vito is even more a people carrier. The TXe makes a return to a taxi that looks like a taxi - and it has more character than most SUVs and people carriers. I think of my TX4 as a taxi: it’s almost, but not quite a car, and definitely not a van. A taxi but not a car? I don’t suppose that matters, so long as it’s clearly a taxi and it’s set apart from the private hire competition. The TXe is its own man.

With more London streets being closed off to diesels, the take-up of electric taxis is sure to continue. The new Dynamo taxi is clearly a van conversion. I think it has enough character to become an acceptable addition to the London taxi family. I don’t think it’ll be as loved as the TX4, but the TX4 is on its way out. Despite the high cost of the new vehicles, the end of the diesel-powered taxi is nigh. The Dynamo is fully electric. This is exciting, but buyers need a leap of faith - particularly with the provision of charging points. Still, even if electricity rises in price, the cab will be cheaper to run than my old diesel fifth-card.

I don’t know the TXe or Dynamo come fitted with all the squeaks and rumbles of the TX4, but for the sake of tradition, I hope so. The sounds add to its character. Hopefully the water leaks don’t come as standard, nor the gap by the gear shift that sucks bank notes doesn’t come as standard...

CHRIS ACKRILL

ON THE ROAD

‘Hopefully the gear shift that sucks in bank notes doesn’t come as standard...’

END OF THE ROAD FOR THE CAR?

CHECKLIST

RELENCISING AT NSL?

Save yourself time and loss of work

- Vehicle registration certificate, logbook or new keeper’s supplement (complete with bill of sale/ receipt) where vehicle is newly purchased prior to inspection
- Current vehicle licence (for renewal inspections)
- From October 1, 2014, vehicles no longer require a tax disc to be displayed. Vehicles can be taxed online or at a post office. If a vehicle is not recorded as taxed, NSL will accept an online application/ post office receipt. (information at www.gov.co.uk/ dva/nomoretaxdisc)
- Insurance certificate (not a copy) - properly affixed in the luggage compartment
- Valid MoT certificate (issued 13 days or less before inspection)
- If vehicle is less than one year old an MoT certificate (issued 13 days or less before inspection)
- Taximeter installation and calibration certificate, issued within 30 days of inspection
- Exemption certificate (where applicable)
- Modification approval (where applicable)
- Tool to release ramps
- Tyres - must conform to manufacturer’s specification (see table below)

VEHICLE MAKE / MODEL

- Mercedes Vito Euro 4
- Mercedes Vito Euro 5
- TX1 (declared speed of 130 km/h)
- TXII (declared speed of 147 km/h)
- TX4 (declared speed of 147 km/h)

TYRE SIZE

- 195/65 R 16 100/91T or 104/102T
- 195/65 R 16 100/91T or 104/102T
- 175 R 16 N
- 175 R 16 Q
- 175 R 16 Q
Rent The Electric

Vista Comfort Plus

FOR RENT
Call 0208 452 5461

0208 452 5461
Info@cricklewoodcarriers.co.uk
www.electricblackcabs.co.uk
Incredible Deals!

FREE FOR YOUR NEW

Your **FREE** Hale Meter.

Your **FREE** Cabvision Payment System.

Your **FREE** CabPay Mobile Payment System.

For more information call us on **020 7655 6970**
Office opening hours Monday - Friday 08.30 - 17.30

cabpay.co.uk  cabvision.com

1. **TWO YEARS FREE METER - SAVING £240.00**

Enter into a 2 year rental contract for the Ingenico Integrated Terminal and receive 2 years free meter rental.

(2.95% + 16p per transaction, minimum volume £900.00 pcm or £16.25 pcm)

2. **ONE YEAR FREE METER - SAVING £140.00**

Enter into a 2 year rental contract for our CabPay mobile payment system and receive 1 year free meter rental.

(1.99% + 10p per transaction, minimum volume £1,500.00 pcm or £16.25 pcm)

3. **ONE YEAR FREE METER AND FREE INSTALLATION - SAVING £224.00**

Purchase our CabPay mobile payment system for £199.99 and receive free fitting and 1 year free meter rental.

(1.99% + 10p per transaction, no minimum volume, no payment contract, no hidden costs)

**Meter contract 2 years, second year £100.00 inc vat.**

---

CABVISION NETWORK LTD. IS AUTHORISED BY THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY (FCA).
REGISTRATION NUMBER 910574
Join Gett
The leading taxi app in London

0% Commission in your first month

Minimum Fare  Peak premiums  Daily Priority  Daily Payments

What are you waiting for?
Sign up today at: u.gett.com/app or pop into the Gett Driver Office (162 Farringdon Road)

*Only if you’re a new Gett Driver or have been inactive for 12 months
W

ith a blanket 20-mph speed limit now rolled out across Transport for London regulated roads, should there be an overhaul as to how drivers are punished for marginal or minor speeding offences? Although there was a change as to how fines were implemented with the introduction of an income-based system in April 2017, the penalty points system for speeding has never faced an overhaul since its inception in the late 80’s. (With the exception of a reduction as to how many points a driver with under 2 years driving experience can hold.)

Nowadays, tacking up penalty points on one’s license is becoming a common issue, with DfT figures showing an incredibly 3.2 million motoring offences in the 12-month period up to the end of 2018 - inclusive of 2.3 million speeding offences.

Let’s be clear, inappropriate speed kills, which is why we have speed limits. However, there is arguably a clear difference between driving at 40-mph in a 30-mph zone and doing 24-mph in a 20-mph zone. So, should these two very different speeding offences proffer the same punishment? The simple answer is probably, ‘no.’

Despite what various authorities may tell the public (so as to mitigate and enforce the current system), the two offences are perhaps different because the 40 in a 30 offence can be easily controlled and might justifiably be viewed as deliberate or careless, whereas 24-mph in a 20-mph zone, the margins are arguably much finer…

The simple answer is probably, ‘no.’

The AA President, Edmund King OBE, told The Mail Online in March 2017: “20-mph zones ‘do work’ but that widespread restrictions ‘inspire little respect’ from motorists.” He added: “It has long been recognised by government that speed limits should reflect the nature of the road and be evidence-led and self-explaining.”

Startling figures released by the AA showed that 84% of drivers break the 20-mph limit – this may be a strong indicator that this limit, along with some other speed limits may be inappropriate, unworkable or undriveable. Alternatively, it may mean that we’re all so pre-programmed to accelerate to 50-mph that the current generations of drivers will be a lucrative source of income for government through fines for the foreseeable future...

Driving in an urban area these days can be extraordinarily challenging. Having to be on one’s guard, worrying about unpredictable pedestrian activity or having to take evasive action because of a swerving cyclist is bad enough, but when your eyes have to be firmly fixed on the speedometer to try and make sure that you aren’t a touch over the speed limit, that situation then has the potential to become dangerous. So, could it also be time to look at dynamic speed limits across major cities as well as a more dynamic penalty points system?

Speeding is one of the few offences which offers the offender a ‘quadruple whammy’ - not only faced with penalty points, those convicted are also fined, leading to a potential insurance hike and lastly, as if to add insult to injury, the offence has to be declared to the insurance company for 5 years. (Despite only being a liability in the totting up process for 3 years and remaining on a person’s license for 4 years.)

It is not unreasonable to argue that some speeding offences should carry no more than a fine rather than a fine and penalty points - though then admittedly, we risk returning to the days of wealthy offenders consistently buying their way out of trouble and their disregard of others when behind the wheel.

It could be argued (and invariably is) that speed limits in the UK, or anywhere else for that matter are figures which are just ‘plucked from the air’. Why should the national speed limit on a motorway and dual carriageway be 70-mph and 60 on single track roads? (In some cases, this is absurdly excessive)

Whilst I’m at it, why does the A13 switch from 70-mph at Dagenham to 50-mph near Thurrock? Why is Holloway Road, a major section of the A1 in Islington, London, a 20-mph limit at 5am? If every road should be judged on its own merits, should Oxford Street be 30-mph given the volume of pedestrians? The simple answer is no, it really should be 20-mph. One size does not fit all, and drivers are being punished for this seemingly short-sighted approach.

The 30-mph speed limit in urban areas was first introduced in 1934 in response to high casualty levels. The 70-mph limit on previously unrestricted roads was introduced in 1965. We are still being regulated by speed limits which are between 55 and 86 years old, despite now driving state of the art, technology imbued vehicles.

A Parliamentary Select Committee for Transport Safety published a report in 2007 highlighting how casualty levels rise with increasing speed and recommended reducing speed limits on streets with high pedestrian traffic and dangerous rural roads. That same committee, which recommended 20-mph speed zones, maintained that these zones should not rely on heavy-handed enforcement measures. Yet now, we are seeing a purge on drivers who exceed 20-mph limits by just 3 or 4-mph.

It is generally accepted that many police authorities operate a “10% plus 2-mph” tolerance level, but this is not a guarantee nor a “fail-safe” mechanism which should be relied upon. Many now believe that this course of action is bringing legislation surrounding low-level speeding into question. It’s perhaps up to professional drivers, representational bodies across the board and the general public, to decide as to whether the penalty points system should be overhauled and pose this question to government.
Ascott Cab Company is a LEVC, LTC & LTI Service & Sales Dealer and you can buy your New 2020 TXE VISTA from Ascott’s now. We also stock a wide range of used TX4’s for sale with new cabs coming in daily - Call for details.

**Ascott Repair Centre Ltd**

specialise in all aspects of Black Taxi bodywork

**Ascott Cab Company**

[Address]

**DIGITAX**

Meter Rental

£99 per year

*Updates tariff automatically*
Are you allowing your health to take a back seat?

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Whilst the majority of us are travelling around London searching for fares; attempting to wash our hands; wipe down surfaces; not touch our faces and avoid being sneezed on...

It may be a good time to put the current climate ‘into comparable perspective,’ in remembering there are other health considerations we shouldn’t be allowing to ‘take a back seat’. For instance, the fact that one man dies of prostate cancer every 45 minutes in the UK, is probably one of them.

That means that the number of men dying from prostate cancer in the UK has hit an all-time high, exceeding 12,000 in one year. And for the first time ever, prostate cancer was the most commonly diagnosed cancer in England according to Prostate Cancer UK.

Shocking statistics? Yes, but on a positive note, it’s likely that the dramatic increase in diagnoses is as a result of men living longer, and that more men are having a ‘PSA test’.

This is a blood test, called a ‘prostate-specific antigen test’, which measures the level of PSA and may help detect early prostate cancer. They are not routinely offered as a screening method, but any bloke over 50 can ask for one from their GP. And let’s be honest, it’s perhaps more appealing than the option of a digital rectal examination (aka a finger in your private orifice) which is also still used as a prostate cancer test - despite many men’s reluctance and embarrassment.

However, as nhs.uk point out, it is important to be aware that a PSA test can produce a ‘false positive’ result, (suggesting prostate cancer exists when in fact it doesn’t) which is why we don’t currently have a national screening programme in place, where men are invited for testing like women are for breast cancer. Public Health England ‘recognises that people will find this situation unsatisfactory’ - but it’s something that Prostate Cancer UK is working to change as part of their renewed, ‘MANifesto - to deliver the future men deserve.’ But until then, it’s up to each of us to be aware of our individual risk:

- Prostate cancer mainly affects men over 50 and the risk increases with age. The risk is even higher for black men, and men with a family history of prostate cancer. Obesity can also increase risk.
- Keep an eye out for symptoms which may be an indication of enlarged prostate, prostatitis or prostate cancer, such as: Needing to pee more often; difficulty in starting; straining or taking a long time; weak flow; feeling that you haven’t fully emptied your bladder.

It’s important to note that not everyone experiences symptoms and not all symptoms necessarily mean cancer. Maybe it’s time to stop being reluctant to talk about your nether regions and go get checked out (when COVID-19 allows) - because these days, if prostate cancer is caught before it has spread outside the prostate there’s a chance it can be cured.

For further info, check out the following sites:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/prostate-cancer/
https://prostatecanceruk.org/about-us

London's Finest Taximeter

NEW VIKING 5 TAXI METER

£95.00 rent per year
all inclusive

- TfL Approved
- Easy and simple to use
- Compact modern design
- Color coded touch sensitive buttons
- All fleets welcome
- Compatible with all radio circuits
- Work with all charge systems

We Manage Everything You Simply Drive...0208 208 3600

London and General Motor Cab Company Limited
INSURANCE
Just think CABSURANCE

TAXI

HOME BUILDINGS & CONTENTS

RATES FOR ELECTRIC TAXIS NOW AVAILABLE Inc. LEVC & DYNAMO

Guaranteed GAP Protection Inc. LEVC & DYNAMO

EVERYTHING POINTS TO

PERSONAL ACCIDENT & SICKNESS

BREAKDOWN RAC AVAILABLE

REPLACEMENT VEHICLE HIRE (up to 28 days)

POLICY EXCESS PROTECTION

HEAD OFFICE
39-41 Brewery Road
London, N7 9QH
020 8597 2622

86 Dunbridge Street
Bethnal Green
London, E2 6JG

Authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Tickets, flights and travel questions? Taxi’s Emma, has the answers...

TRAVEL AND THE CORONAVIRUS

MONEY MATTERS

Fears about the spread of the coronavirus have seen flights, holidays, sporting events and festivals around the world cancelled or postponed. And the latest Government advice is that we shouldn’t go anywhere at all. But where does that leave you when it comes to refunds and insurance claims?

Government advice to slow the spread of the virus - basically self-isolating if you show symptoms of COVID-19 and minimising social interaction - is likely to hit the economy hard. Alongside worrying about their jobs, individuals may be concerned about cancelled holidays, flights and sporting fixtures.

Euro 2020 has been postponed for a year. If you have tickets for matches, you should hold on to them until you know whether you can make the new dates. If you’re unable to make it to the game once the new date has been confirmed, you’ll be entitled to a refund.

Premier League football matches have been postponed until April at the earliest. Six Nations rugby matches have also been postponed and the French Open tennis tournament delayed until at least September. Tui has cancelled all its holidays for the foreseeable future while Government advice about the spread of the virus on cruise ships has prompted Saga to cancel upcoming cruises. Airlines have cancelled thousands of flights with Virgin Atlantic asking staff to take eight weeks’ unpaid leave.

It’s been a fast-moving situation and in a one-week period alone, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) issued more than 430 separate pieces of travel advice.

At the time of writing the FCO had compounded previous statements by advising UK nationals against all but essential international travel for an initial period of 30 days starting from 17 March. The decision was made due to an increase in the number of border closures and other travel restrictions.

Although the latest travel advice from the Government might seem worrying, it actually makes the situation for holidaymakers with travel insurance much clearer. Insurers’ cancellation cover will only kick in if the FCO advises against all or “all but essential” travel to a particular destination – and that warning now stands for the whole world, rather than an ever-changing list of destinations, for at least a month (probably longer).

Rory Boland, editor of ‘Which? Travel’, says: “This shift from the government to advising against non-essential foreign travel means anyone with upcoming travel plans should be able to claim a refund or rebook for a later date with their package provider, or claim on their insurance for holiday plans that have fallen through.

“This is likely to place unprecedented financial pressure on travel providers, so the Government must consider all options to support the industry through this difficult period.”

Sports fans with tickets for cancelled events should be refunded by event organisers. The latest travel advice means they should be able to claim losses for pre-booked accommodation on their travel insurance policies.

Most package holidays will have ABTA protection and you should automatically get your money back if your trip is cancelled. Some operators, such as Saga, are using cash incentives to encourage holidaymakers to re-book trips at a later date rather than apply for a refund.

Arguably, now is not a good time to book a holiday as we simply don’t know how the coronavirus pandemic will play out. The Government has warned that Brits who decide they still need to travel abroad should be fully aware of the increased risks of doing so. These include the risk that they may not be able to get home if travel restrictions are put in place and that they may not be covered by travel insurance policies.
Who’s got your back?

3pts £175 fine
6 points £500 fine
NOT GUILTY
1 year ban
2 yrs prison

Charged with jumping a red light
Charged with careless driving
Acquitted on all charges
Charged with dangerous driving
Charged with road rage assault

No matter how careful, even the best drivers in the trade can find themselves with legal trouble when the odds are stacked against them.

The LTDA legal service is the only trade scheme which defends members for all alleged offences (traffic, hackney or criminal), anytime, anywhere in the UK.

Join the LTDA today, we’ve got your back.

Call: 0207 286 1046 or visit: www.ltda.co.uk
THE CADOGAN GOLF SOCIETY

TAXI TALK

The Pont Street Shelter was my nightly hang out and where we first formed a Cab Golf Society. Tony Jacklin, the son of a Scunthorpe lorry driver, had won The British Open in 1969 and The American Open the following year - and suddenly, taxi drivers were into a real ‘gentlemen’s game’. We called our Society, ‘The Cadogan’ because it sounded very posh and certainly nothing to do with common cabbies and we even got one of the guys who could put on a good posh accent, to do the bookings for us! Would you believe, because of the class barriers in those far-off days, we made a rule that none of our members should attend a tournament in their cabs. If they really had no other form of transport, we would all meet up and park away from the golf club and pile into two or three cars for the final lap!

I recall once, we were having dinner at the very snooty St. George’s Hill Golf Club, near Weybridge in Surrey and one of the old colonial ‘colonels’ was remonstrating in a rather loud voice with a pretty young waitress, prattling on and on about the way his dinner had been laid out. ‘My dear ‘gel’, he was heard to say, ‘can you believe, because of my posh accent, to do the bookings for us! Would you believe, because of the class barriers in those far-off days, we made a rule that none of our members should attend a tournament in their cabs. If they really had no other form of transport, we would all meet up and park away from the golf club and pile into two or three cars for the final lap!

We were all sitting there feeling embarrassed for the young girl who hadn’t laid out the old fob watch) and decide to give her a ring (picked her out as a likely victim). She’s panicking ‘cos she’s holding a monkey (five hundred pounds) in her sky-rocket – pocket) and she’s ‘eard from the neighbours that some drummers, (burglars who knock on the door) are working our manor, (area) and they’ve marked ‘er card. (picked her out as a likely victim).

As it ‘appens, he went on to his captive audience, ‘I appens to pick up (pick up) a flyer, (an airport job). So I’m running well late and after dropping off the punter, I look at my kettle (kettle and hub-the old fob watch) and decide to give her a ring on the dog and bone (phone). But all she does is laugh when I apologise for being late. She tells me that a firm of drummers have turned over (robbed) my drum (house) while she’s been out shopping. What a diabolical liberty, they’ve even gone up the apples (apples and pears –stairs) and ‘alf-inch (pinched) my brand new whistle (whistle and flute-suit), my camel haired smother (overcoat) and even my crocodile St.Louis (St Louis Blues –shoes), my strides (trousers) and my pure silk almonds (almend rocks–socks).

Now Tom is reaching his punchline and he’s got the audience giggling loudly and he knows he’s got them in his hand. He stops, with what I believe is a pregnant pause and then continues. ‘These thieving little toe-rags only went into the bog (toilet) and nicked my spare set of ‘ampsteads! Well, the guys were falling all over the floor unable to control their laughter. As for me, even though I lived in Hampstead Heath’s, (teeth - false teeth)! But Tom was good and should be an actor!

‘A Morality Taxi-Tale from Heathrow!’

Most cabbies who work Heathrow on a regular basis, tend to take a strong moral stance when it comes to protecting and respecting their fellow drivers out there. Mind you, if the opportunity arose to nick a job, their morality would be temporarily suspended!

But this particular story is about a team of four skullduggers, who worked a very productive scam for a couple of months before they all got nicked! The scam was very simple but effective. They arranged a private meeting with one of The APCOA Wardens who they had been chatting up on the terminal. He wanted a tenner from each of them every time he allowed them on the rank. So, if they were all doing FOUR rides, he would be copping £160. But the cabbies with four decent rides, could be taking four times as much!

They would phone their contact in the morning to find out what shift and what terminal he was on. Then they’d simply drive to Heathrow and stick it on the back of the relevant rank, telling the other cabbies that they had done ‘a local’. With just one guy – or maybe two on the scam, it would have lasted a long while.

But with four in the gang, you tend to get someone opening their mouth and boasting. That is exactly what happened, and they were all nicked. The cabbies were suspended from using Heathrow for a year and the APCOA guy was sacked. It would be interesting to know what sort of money they earned during the scam!

‘RIP Alan Haynes’

I’ve just heard that on Friday March 13th, one of our long-serving golf gang Alan Haynes, sadly passed away after a long illness. Alan was a London cabbie for many years and is well known in the trade.

My deepest condolences to his wife and family with their sad loss.
LTDA APPLICATION FORM

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________

Postcode _______________________________________________________

Telephone ______________________________________________________

Mobile _________________________________________________________

Email __________________________________________________________

Twitter __________________________________________________________

Date of Birth ___________________________________________________

Badge No. _______________________________________________________

Badge colour (Please state whether green or yellow) ___________________

Year badge obtained _____________________________________________

Suburban badge sector numbers _____________________________________

Have you ever been a member of the LTDA before? (please tick) Yes [ ] No [ ]

Do you currently have points on your DVLA driving license? (please tick) Yes [ ] No [ ]

If Yes how many points do you have? ________________________________

Please tick if you DO NOT wish to receive information from the LTDA and other related organisations in the future? [ ]

I understand that my application for membership of the Association must be approved by the Council of Management and that until this is confirmed I am not eligible to vote in relation to any form of Association matters. I agree that all benefits prior to approval of membership shall be at the discretion of the Council of Management.

Please note: We do not provide assistance for any matters that have occurred prior to you joining LTDA.

Signed ______________________________ Date _________________________

LTDA Basic Direct Debit Instructions

Instructions to your Bank/Building Society to pay Direct Debits:

Please complete parts 1 to 5 to instruct your branch to make direct payments from your account. Then return the form to the LTDA, FREEPOST, (PAM 2005), London W9 2BR

To the Manager of ________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________

__________________________ ____________________________

Originator’s Identification No. 9 1 4 4 2 8

For Office use only

1 Please write the name and full postal address of your branch in the box (left)

2 Name of account holder __________________________________________

3 Account number ________________________________________________

4 Bank Sort Code __________________________________________________

Banks/Building Societies may not accept instructions to pay Direct Debit from some types of account.

5 Signature(s) ___________________________________________________

Date ____________________________

The Direct Debit Guarantee

• This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

• If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit LTDA will notify you (10 working days) in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request LTDA to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

• If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by LTDA, or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when LTDA asks you to.

• You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.
LOATHE Mother’s Day. It’s become a scabby supermarket con to part little children from their pocket money. And as for the grown-up kids, they’re guilt-tripped into paying squillions for a ‘do-your-duty’ restaurant lunch.

I turn the tables on Mother’s Day tradition and give all my Mini Megs a gift - an order that they must ignore me completely on Mothering Sunday. And I seal up the letterbox, too. I don’t want a £5 greeting card with a meaningless verse inside such as: “Thank you, Mum, for wiping my bum!” or - “You were so nice when picking out my head lice…”

I know there’s a lovely history associated with Mother’s Day, dating right back to the 17th Century but 400 years later the message of love and family unity has been so trashed by the ‘BUY BUY BUY’ quarter that I am now a refusenik. I want to hide behind my sofa until the whole schmaltzy spend fest is over.

But I don’t do that. I go to work instead. Fares generally assume I must be a sad sack. A child free zone, or else so despicable that my kids have divorced me. I do get quite a few big pity tips, though. The sort that fold and don’t rattle.

Last year, on Mother’s Day, I picked up a young couple from Clapham Common. They were both clutching empty carrier bags and asked for the windows to be wide open in the back. They may as well have worn badges reading ‘I am about to throw up’.

“You two alright back there?” I asked as I drove off. I was concerned – mostly about the thought of having to clean up after two of them.

“Yah. Yah. We will be fine, thank you verah much” she said. Did I mention they were uber-posh and heading home to Cheyne Walk in Chelsea?

“Dodgy lunch?” I asked.

The chap, who was clammy and green around the gills groaned, “Two, actually”. He explained that they had eaten lunch at her mum’s house in Barnes at 12.30pm and then dashed to his Mum’s favourite restaurant in Clapham for a second lunch at 2.30pm.

At the first sitting they had eaten twice baked cheese souffle drizzled with a mixed herb aioli, spring lamb cutlets with cauliflower three ways and a cherry clafoutis. And, her mum served seconds of everything.

And before they had time to burp in appreciation for lunch number one, they had sat down to lunch number two; a hearty minestrone soup, chicken stuffed with cream cheese and wrapped in Parma ham, followed by trifle with vanilla whipped cream and apricots soaked in brandy.

The woman groaned and gripped her belly, “Mother’s Day is killing me! We have two Mothers! What were we supposed to do?”

They should have stayed home, had a cheese and pickle sandwich apiece and sent each of their mums the traditional flower of Mother’s Day – a carnation.

Folklore says a humble carnation is the perfect flower for Mothering Sunday because it doesn’t drop its petals, it just hugs them to the heart as it gets older. Just as a Mum does to her child. Happy Carnation Day. ♦
Normally in order to write this column, I get the sales and decommissioning stats on cabs, speak to a few traders and look at what I am offered, what I have taken as stock, sold, flipped or underwritten to get prices. These are not normal times and I don’t need to do any of the above, nothing has sold, nothing is moving, and the phone is ringing constantly (ironically, my current ringtone is Wagner’s ride of the Valkyries) with offers of cabs for sale.

I am one of the lucky ones, because I have been long expecting a drop in diesel prices, I am carrying virtually no stock, my main business has been underwriting sales from part exchanges, often I don’t even see the cab. That’s not the case for some who are going to be stuck with cabs they have zero chance of selling this side of summer and possibly not till we return to normality which is anyone’s guess. Even then the cab will be worth much less than it was bought for, in some cases half.

One of the callers was a mate who runs a small fleet, he’s been around forever and has mainly 13/14/15 plate TX4’s, all in great shape and well looked after. 80% of the fleet have been returned, even though he offered massive discounts to his renters, and he wants shot of them. I couldn’t even bring myself to tell him what they would be worth, even if he could find a buyer. He had pretty much guessed anyway, and then told me he was going to decommission them for the current £8k on offer from TfL. That’s how bad it is, last week some of his cabs were worth twice that, now he just needs the cash.

I know it’s not just the cab trade, I have neighbours and friends in so many walks of life and all those that are self employed or run a small business that are already in dire straits and this only started last week, where is it going to end?

To try and end on a positive note, the 3 month payment holiday from LEVC to all their customers is great, it takes the pressure off their drivers, hopefully Mercedes will follow LEVC’s lead and when this comes to an end in June, we will all be in a much better place.

GB Taxi Services Ltd
Unit 22 Redburn Ind Est
Woodall Road
Enfield EN3 4LE
Call: 020 8912 2351
Low Cost Taxi Insurance
For Careful Drivers

0208 504 8222

SUTHERLAND
INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED

London Black cabs only
NOW IN STOCK

NU20 REG

BE AT THE FRONT OF THE RANK AND ORDER YOUR NEW 20 PLATE TAXI FROM

CALL 0208 692 1122
AND SPEAK TO OUR SALES TEAM

1-3 BLACKHORSE ROAD
LONDON SE8 5HY

WWW.ASCOTTS.LONDON
CALL - 0208 692 1122
PUZZLER
CROSSWORD

ACROSS:
1 Casual top (1-5)
5 Singing temptresses, in classical mythology (6)
8 Work hard (4)
9 Write comments upon (6)
10 Shame (6)
11 Species of flatfish (6)
12 Milky birthstone (4)
14 Alternatively named (initls)(3)
15 Marital estrangement (4)
16 (Lancashire) stew (6)
18 Lithe (6)
20 Light again (8)
22 Rounded vault forming a roof (4)
23 Regard (6)
24 Irksome (6)

DOWN:
1 Pig’s nose (5)
2 Contrary to the law (7)
3 Rip asunder (4,5)
4 Sky’s brightest object (3)
5 Helicopter blade (5)
6 Vegetarian dish (3,4)
7 Brief or short-lived (9)
8 Expertise (7)
9 Briskly (7)
10 Self-assurance (5)
11 Sour-tasting yellow fruit (5)
12 Badly lit (3)

CROSSWORD #463 ANSWERS:

ACROSS: 1 Submerge 5 Weld 9 Abyss 10 Sheriff 11 Meet 12 Libretto 14 Affirm 15 Unrest 18 Kneel-deep 20 Even 23 Adamant 24 Prowl 25 Date 26 Jettison

DOWN: 1 Swarm 2 Bay leaf 3 Else 4 Gossip 6 Exist 7 Defrost 8 Bearing 13 Gradual 14 Awkward 16 Envious 17 Kettle 19 Enact 21 Nylon 22 Spit

WORDSEARCH
Can you find the listed words in the grid? Words may run either forwards or backwards, in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal direction, but always in a straight line.

Y R E T T E S D E R V E J
D A L M A T I A N M L Z E
R N M W C C E I A D J I N
E N A O H L Y S O A C O A
T S R L G I T O C M S L D
R G T A D I P K I P E A T
I S E B F N R P A N I B A
E B H F E U U A E B L R E
V Y I I S R S O O T L A R
E N K S H A N X F S O D G
R C E S H T E A T W C O G
I L G L U R Z N R M E R U
L S F O X H O U N D K N P

SUDOKU
Have a go at this medium level Sudoku puzzle. Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 just once

Copyright Puzzler Media Ltd - www.puzzler.com
Meet the LTDA legal team

Driving a taxi for many hours of the day in one of the world’s most congested cities is a challenging task. Cabbies often fall victim to complaints and false accusations from police, passengers and other road users (especially cyclists and PHV drivers). When these events arise it’s comforting for LTDA members to know that they have the immediate support of the best specialist in-house legal team in the business. The success rate of the LTDA Legal Team is second to none. In fact, according to Criminal Justice Statistics, LTDA members defended by our team are FOUR times more likely than the national average to be acquitted of allegations made against them.

“FOUR times more likely than the NATIONAL average to get an acquittal”

Tom Poulson
I joined the LTDA when I first got my badge and it turned out to be the best thing I ever did. Due to an unfortunate set of circumstances I ended up getting my licence revoked by TfL. I turned to John Luckhurst, one of the LTDA’s legal eagles, for assistance. John went to great lengths to prepare a detailed appeal against TfL’s decision and briefed a brilliant barrister to represent me in court. The appeal was successful and saved my livelihood. LTDA subscriptions are only four quid a week, which is less than a pint, and three pounds can be claimed against tax. I can’t believe that every cabbie in town is not a member.

Farouk Merdjane
I was involved in an accident whilst driving my cab in Shepherd’s Bush. I wasn’t too worried about it because I was confident that it wasn’t my fault and the insurance would sort it out. A short while later I received a summons for driving without due care and attention. I had no witnesses to help me, but the other driver had produced “independent” witnesses out of thin air! I quickly contacted the LTDA’s legal department and they immediately visited the scene of the incident and arranged for professional photographs to be recorded. I later appeared before magistrates at Lavender Hill Court, where the LTDA barrister tied the witnesses up in knots and demonstrated they could not have seen what they said they had. Thank you, LTDA legal department; you gave me an excellent service.

Paul Baxter
I was filled with confidence the very first time I contacted the LTDA’s legal team and as it turned out, I certainly wasn’t disappointed. They did a great job in sorting out my problem with TfL. They’ve got to be the best in the business!

“LTDA subscriptions cost less than four quid a week”

Ken Jackson
The LTDA’s solicitors and support team, could not have been more helpful when I first informed them that an allegation had been made against me. The LTDA was quick to check all the CCTV cameras in the area and arrange for plans of the location to be drawn up. Witness statements were also obtained and Mr Demidecki was successful in getting the Crown Prosecution Service to drop the case against me. Thanks LTDA - an all-round brilliant service!
TAXI TYRES

TAXI APPROVED TYRES:

- 175/80R16 Freeway 8mm REMOULD £44.40
- 175/80R16 Freeway 10mm REMOULD £47.00
- 175/80R16 NEW Maxxis* £66.00
- 175/80R16 NW Austone AUSTONE £59.94

MERCEDES VITO TYRES

- 195/65R16 104T Economy £57.54 CONTIPOWERCONTACT
- 195/65R16 104T Economy £107.94 CONTINENTAL
- 195/65R16 104T Economy £72.00 FIRELLI ROADSTONE
- 195/65R16 104T Economy £77.94 ROADSTONE

WHEEL ALIGNMENT

Our HUNTER Wheel Alignment, we believe is one of the very BEST around! All Alignments inc. before and after report.

MTF AND BLACK CAB ALIGNMENT FROM £42

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

- Monday-Friday 8am-6pm
- Saturday 8am-5pm
- 2 LOXHAM ROAD | CHINGFORD | E4 8SE

Visit us today for a Friendly, Professional Service you can Trust!

Clean and comfortable waiting areas, knowledgable staff, state-of-the-art fitting bays.

Call Now or Visit us Online

0208 531 2300

www.thetyreshop.com

See your advertisement here

TAXI is the membership magazine for the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association (LTDA). It is circulated to 15,000 taxi drivers in London every fortnight.

The LTDA is the definitive voice of and for London cab drivers and is responsible for ensuring best practise in the trade, making sure its members' voices are heard and serving members with the back up and support they need.

Get in touch

To see your advertisement in the leading magazine for black cab drivers in London contact us today:

Jack Green
Jack@centuryonepublishing.uk
01727 739 196
A selection of our numerous Distribution Points:

- A1 Taxis, Melody Lane, Highbury, N5
- Abacus Accounts, Southbrook Road, Lee, SE12
- Astral Café, Regency Place, SW1
- Bubbles Car Wash, E2
- C & S Taxis, Dunbridge Street, E2
- Cabsurance, Seven Kings
- Camberfield Taxi Services
- Computer Cab, Mitre Way, W12
- Coney Allen, Dunbridge Street, E1
- CP Beehive Service Station, Beehive Lane, Gants Hill
- Cricklewood Carriers, Cricklewood
- Dial A Cab, City Road, N1
- Edgware Station Rank
- Euston Station Rank
- G & L Taxis, Crayford Road, N7
- Globe Transmissions, Cudworth Street, E1
- The Ham, Brentford
- Heathrow Airport Canteen
- Hexagon Garage, Lukin Street, E1
- Jet Garage, Clipstone Street, W1
- Knowledge Centre, Caledonian Road
- KPM, Hemming Street, E1
- London City Airport Canteen
- LP Motors, Dunbridge Street, E2
- Martin Cordell, E3 and Stanmore
- Paddington Station Rank
- Putney Bridge Taxis, The Arches, Putney Bridge Station, SW6
- Richmond Road Taxi Centre, E8
- Safewise Supermarket, Harrow
- South Bank Service Station, Great Suffolk Street, SE1
- TAXI HOUSE, W9
- Taxi & Private Hire, Blackfriars Rd, SE1
- Temple Place Shelter
- Turbo Accessories, Three Colts Lane, E2
- Ubiquitous Ltd, E1
- Waterloo Station
- Wimbledon Station Rank
- WizAnn Knowledge School, Watts Grove, E3

Published by LTDA
Taxi House 11 Woodfield Road, London W9 2BA
T: 020 7286 1046 | www.ltda.co.uk
E: TaxiEditor@centuryonepublishing.uk

Managing Editor
Nick Hartop
E: TaxiEditor@centuryonepublishing.uk

The Massett File
Richard Massett
International News
Wim Faber
Two Fingers
Al Fresco
Taxi Talk
All Townsend
Overheard
Brad Ashton
Licensed to Chat
Musher Meg

Produced by
Century One Publishing Ltd
Alban Row, 27-31 Verulam Road
St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 4DG.
T: 01727 893 894, F: 01727 893 895
E: enquiries@centuryonepublishing.uk
www.centuryonepublishing.uk

Advertising Sales Executive
Jack Green
T: 01727 739 196
E: jack@centuryonepublishing.uk

Designer & Advert Coordinator
Caitlyn Hobbs

Creative Director
Peter Davies

Printed by
Manston Group, St Albans

London’s leading Insurance broker.

Give us a call to see how much you can save.
020 8127 8419

On-Site @ Ascott Cab Company, Blackhorse Road SE8 SHY
quotax.net
CAN'T WORK?
NO PAY!

Claim up to £450*
Weekly Benefit
Protection

Gold Premium
Up to £250 weekly benefit if you were unable to work due to Sickness or Accident
£51.20 per month
(includes LTDA basic membership)

Platinum Premium
Up to £450 weekly benefit if you were unable to work due to Sickness or Accident
£59.90 per month
(includes LTDA basic membership)

Both schemes include:
Accidental Death Benefit of £60,000 and hospital benefit of up to £400 per week (max 30 nights)

To join, call Paula today on 020 7286 1046 or email paula@ltda.co.uk

Alternatively, call in at Taxi House and pick up an application form or download it from: www.ltda.co.uk

POLICY CONDITIONS: Claims for Back/Depression related illnesses have a reduced benefit of £90 per week. 14 day deferment period before claim payments start. Maximum period for which weekly benefit is payable to 26 weeks. The age limit for joining Platinum is 49 years and for the Gold is 54 years. You are covered up to your 65th Birthday. (subject to terms & conditions).

“You don’t expect to be off work for a long time, but when it happens you’re glad you joined the LTDA”

“I visited my GP for the routine medical. I then discovered that I was suffering from Thyroid cancer. Thankfully I had the LTDA payments to back me up during my treatment”
PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE

COVID-19
ADVICE NOTICE

BLACK CABS ARE THE SAFEST WAY TO TRAVEL. YOU ARE SITTING BEHIND A PARTITION IN AN AREA WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND BUILT TO BE EASILY CLEANED AND DISINFECTED.

AFTER EVERY JOURNEY THIS TAXI HAS ALL SURFACES INCLUDING DOOR HANDLES, SEATS, SEAT BELTS, COINS AND NOTES CLEANED USING ANTIBACTERIAL WIPES.

THANK YOU
ACCOUNTANTS

SAS Accountants Ltd
100% Driver Owned
LHR · KX · SW1 · Online
shortandsons.co.uk
Call 07481 479933

CABS FOR RENT

TX4s TO RENT

- Ascott's maintained.
- Pay by cash/bank/online.
- Mercs also available

TO BOOK INTO TAXI 465

CALL JACK
01727 739196

CABS FOR RENT

WE WANT YOUR USED CAB
Get up to £3,500 more on part-ex values for certain TX4 models*
Get your valuation at www.levc.com/valuemytaxi

Terms and conditions apply, please see levc.com for full details

CABS FOR RENT

BOW TAXIS LTD TAXI REPAIR & FLEET HIRE
51 CAMPBELL ROAD, BOW, LONDON E3 4DP

QUALITY DRIVERS REQUIRED
FOR WELL-MAINTAINED FLEET

- 24-HOUR BACK-UP · TX2’s & TX4’s & VITO’s · TURNING CIRCLE SPECIALISTS
- FULL GARAGE SERVICES · BODYWORK · OVEN FACILITIES AVAILABLE
- JIGWORK · OVERHAULS · OWNER DRIVERS WELCOME
- TXI & TX4 ENGINE SPECIALISTS

“ You still receive a friendly welcome at this garage”

CONTACT DARREN OR PAUL  TEL: 020 8981 2419

SERVICE & REPAIRS

DIFF DOCTOR

Phone: 0208 556 3134
WE REPAIR TAXI DIFFS!
TXI’s, TXI’s & TX4’s
PROP SHAFT & HALF SHAFT BEARINGS
WHILE YOU WAIT
TXI’S AND TX4’S FOR RENT
Unit 10, Lammas Road, E10 7GT

INSURANCE

Taxi Financial

PURCHASED A NEW TAXI?
Avoid any potential shortfall in your finance following a total loss claim

0208 597 2622

CABSURANCE

AUTHORISED & REGULATED BY THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY

FOOD

Home of Cabbies

- First two teas free
- Second coffee free
- Any cold starter half price
- 5* food hygiene rating
- Sky sports & BT sports
- Big screen tv
- Free wifi
- Free parking from 7pm
- Order and collect service
- All kebabs are prepared in the house daily and served with rice

118 Old Street EC1V 9BD  T: 0207 336 7036
ACCOUNTANTS
- CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS specialising in the taxi trade. Accounts and tax returns £312 inc VAT. Call 0208 360 1446

AIR CONDITIONING
- MOBILE AUTO AIR conditioning service and repair for taxis. Telephone Nick on 07785 900006 7 days

CABS FOR RENT
- TX4s/TXEs EAST LONDON/ Essex Based £200pw. 24hr Back-up. Own garage/bodyshop. 07715 512263 & 01708 347288
- 59 PLATE TX4 BLACK. Immaculate condition. No ads. Southwest garage. Full back-up. 200pw. 07889 378639

CABS WANTED
- ALL CABS WANTED. WE COME to you. Any condition quick decision. Instant cash paid. 07763 699767
- ALL GOOD QUALITY TX4s required. Top prices guaranteed. 07566 225156, 07707 513629
- GOOD TXIs,TXIIs AND TX4s wanted, top prices paid, quick viewing, North London based. Graham- 07435 562759 oldlondon taxis@yahoo.co.uk
- ALL DE-COMMISSIONED good quality TX4s wanted. Instant decision, cash paid. We come to you. 07973 335739 or 01253 407500
- ALL CABS WANTED, WE come to you, top prices paid, cash/ bank transfer, instant decision, finance settled, non-runners or sell & rent back. Taxi's available to rent. call 07956 317300
- ALL LONDON TX4s WANTED, Euro 4, 5, & 6. Immediate payment. Finance, Lease, and HP settled. We collect. No fuss. 07428 545400
- DE-COMMISSIONED your tx4's and Euro 5's? Earn more by selling outside London. We pay cash, collect and drive away. Tony 07919 401622 John 07702 554934
- CABS WANTED. DE-COMMISSIONED plated or unplated, Noon runners. Cash paid, finance cleared. Sell & rent back. We will pay more than anyone else. 07956 354671
- TWO TX4S. BLACK. MAIN dealer service history. 15 & 66 plate. 07957 465423
- BLACK TX4. PLATED UNTIL August. 167,000 miles, VGC. £8,750 ono. 07811 491172
- TXII 56 REG FOR SALE. 12 months plate. Very clean. £3,000. 01932 569893
- A SELECTION OF MERCEDES Vito Euro 5s for sale. For prices and more info call 07950 811150

LINAGE

PLACE YOUR LINAGE BY WEDNESDAY APRIL 1ST FOR TAXI 465

UP TO 15 WORDS: £35  UP TO 25 WORDS: £45  UP TO 35 WORDS: £55

CALL JACK ON 01727 739196
From significant fuel savings and reduced service, maintenance and repair costs to an array of flexible finance packages, government funding and subsidies, there are many reasons why the world-class **TX electric taxi is exceptionally affordable**.

**TX VISTA from £183 per week**

Weekly equivalent based on 5 year PCP paid monthly via direct debit.

**WHY SETTLE FOR LESS WHEN YOU CAN AFFORD THE BEST**

Enquire today at [levc.com/taxioffer](http://levc.com/taxioffer)

LEVC London North – 0203 912 6996
LEVC London West – 0203 667 0597
LEVC London South East – 0203 657 0598

*Business users only. Finance Illustration refers to Personal Contract Purchase. 7.3% APR Representative figures based on TX Vista at £57,099 OTR. OTR figure is net of OLEV Plug-in Taxi Grant which is up to £7,500 and is subject to European Whole Vehicle Type Approval and European Commission state aid notification. 7.3% APR is subject to a deposit of £3,750, followed by 60 monthly payments of £791.09 (equivalent weekly payments of £182.56 – it is not possible to pay by week, balance is paid monthly via direct debit) plus an optional final payment of £19,258 and £10 Purchase Fee. Based upon an annual contracted mileage of 30,000. You have the option at the end of the agreement to 1. return the vehicle and not pay the optional final payment. If the vehicle has exceeded the maximum agreed mileage a charge per excess mile will apply. In this example, 6p plus VAT per excess mile. If the vehicle is in good condition (fair wear and tear accepted) and has not exceeded the maximum agreed mileage you will have nothing further to pay. 2. Pay the optional final payment and keep the vehicle. Or 3. Part exchange the vehicle subject to settlement of your existing finance agreement; new finance agreements are subject to status. All prices inclusive of VAT. Two, three or four year plans are also available. Finance is provided by Black Horse Taxi Finance a trading style of Black Horse Ltd, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. Credit is subject to status and is only available to UK residents aged 18 and over. All prices and promotions are valid for vehicles ordered and delivered before 31 March 2020.*
15 Years in Insurance Broking

This year, we're celebrating our fifteenth anniversary! Since 2004, we at Quotax have kept a steady momentum to become a leader for Commercial Vehicle Insurance in the UK.

Getting Established
Quotax was started by John Fosker. As a London Green Badge Taxi driver he built up a relationship with Ascott Cab Company, a well-respected family-run London Taxi garage.

2004
John originally had the idea of establishing an insurance broker for London taxi drivers at Ascotts, with ambitions to reproduce the same high-quality levels of customer service.

2009 - 2010
John's two sons, Daniel and Paul Fosker joined the business after graduating from University. Their added drive and determination alongside an ambitious team around them only helped the company grow.

2013
Quotax made the decision to grow their product range adding a number of other niche motor products. We have now become one of the UK's leading insurance brokers for London Taxi drivers and other specialist vehicles.

2018
Quotax invests considerable resources into growing our presence online. John retired in September 2018 and has passed the business to Daniel and Paul, expanding even more by opening a second office in Dartford.

2019
Under their control, the business remains true to its core beliefs of being supportive, professional and delivering exceptional customer service to all of our clients.

We do our very best to answer any questions you may have regarding your insurance needs. Check out our site today for more information!