



Transport Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 3266 Email: transcom@parliament.uk

Baroness Vere of Norbiton,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Department for Transport,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Rd,
London,
SW1P 4DR

17 December 2020

Dear Baroness Vere

I have recently held discussions with representatives of licensed “black cab” taxi drivers in London in light of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

As you will be aware, licensed black cab taxis have suffered a dramatic fall in passenger numbers and revenue because of the pandemic. According to the Licenced Taxi Driver Association (LTDA), passenger demand in London has reduced as much as 85-95% during the pandemic resulting in drivers in the capital earning around 20% of their usual income. 80% of the LTDA’s member drivers are said to not be currently working due to the lack of passenger demand and 4,000 licenced taxis have gone out of business already in London this year.

The recent decision to move London into Tier 3 restrictions will further exacerbate the challenges faced by licensed black cab drivers. I understand that the taxi sector has not received sector-specific support during the pandemic.

In addition, I am told that London’s black cab fleet has made good progress in recent years in improving environmental performance, with almost 4,000 zero emission capable vehicles on the roads. Unfortunately, a number of taxi drivers are struggling to make the required finance agreement payments for these vehicles and are facing the threat of repossession. The LTDA called for the assistance of the Department for Transport and Transport for London in payments due to the financing houses who would undertake these repossessions, in order to ensure that the promising progress in decarbonising the London black cab taxi fleet is not lost.

The Committee would be grateful if you were able to set out what specific financial or other support is being provided to London’s black cab drivers and the efforts being made to engage representatives from the sector. I am writing to the Mayor of London in similar terms. I would request a response to this letter and the points raised within it by **20 January 2021**.

Yours sincerely,



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman'.

Huw Merriman MP
Chair of the Transport Committee