



## **Cabbies demand MPs take action on uninsured minicabs**

Hundreds of taxi drivers and their families attended a Lobby in Parliament this morning, demanding MPs do more to ensure TfL clamps down on uninsured minicabs in the capital.

The Lobby comes ahead of a crucial TfL Board meeting on 17 March and less than a week after an LBC investigation exposed drastic flaws in TfL's vehicle approval process. Cabbies from all over London and the Home Counties visited Parliament to register their concern and urge their MP to take action.

Steve McNamara, General Secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (LTDA), which organised the Lobby, explained: "We estimate at least one in ten minicabs currently operating in the capital is uninsured. This is a massive public safety issue but neither TfL nor the Government are planning to do anything about it. MPs concerned about how easy it is to drive an uninsured minicab around London need to speak up and demand that the regulator do its job. We need action now: the Board cannot be satisfied with TfL's work for this year without an explanation of why nothing has been done to improve oversight of the now 100,000+ minicabs operating in London."

Steve Wright MBE, Chairman of The Licensed Private Hire Car Association, said: "The LPHCA is very keen to make sure all PHVs are fully insured for the carriage of passengers and third party liabilities. For many years we have been engaging with Transport for London and others for systems to identify in 'real time' whether PHVs are appropriately insured. We need improved compliance and enforcement measures."

**\*\*ENDS\*\***

### **About the LTDA**

The LTDA is a membership organisation representing over 11,000 licensed London black taxi drivers.

### **The LBC investigation**

<http://www.lbc.co.uk/this-is-how-easy-it-is-to-become-illegal-minicab-driver-126098>

### **About the TfL Board meeting**

On 17 March the TfL Board will meet to discuss the conclusions of TfL's consultation on proposed new rules for Private Hire Vehicles. In January TfL announced it would not recommend taking forward a proposal which would have required PHV operators to guarantee their entire fleet is appropriately insured. The LTDA feels the Board needs to demand TfL take further action on this point: guaranteeing taxi and minicab passenger safety is one of TfL's central functions and at the moment it has no credible plan for improving the situation.