The Rt Hon George Eustice MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Seacole Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

20 March 2020

Dear Mr Eustice

I write as General Secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers’ Association, representing London’s black cab trade, to offer the support of London’s more than 20,000 black cabs in this time of national emergency. London’s taxi trade stands ready to support the efforts of Defra to ensure that everyone has access to the food and supplies they need.

The ongoing coronavirus crisis has created a high level of demand in our nation’s shops. While the supermarkets themselves have appealed to the public to only purchase what they need, this increase in demand has resulted in many people being unable to get the food that they require. The situation has also rendered over 20,000 self-employed, knowledgeable, professional and DBS-checked cabbies in London essentially redundant through the loss of trade.

I am aware that your Department is urgently working with food retailers and the supply chain to ensure that the shelves of our supermarkets are well stocked and that deliveries are continuing, particularly to vulnerable and self-isolating customers.

London’s fleet of over 20,000 purpose built black cabs can help. Black cabs are designed to be easily cleaned and sterilised, with a partition that would separate passengers or goods. I am writing to ask you and your officials what we can do to help the delivery of food and other goods, particularly to support the most vulnerable and key workers.

Times such as these require communities to pull together. Cabbies are essential to this and are desperate to play their part to support those in need.

Please contact me on 020 7234 3663 or [ltda@newingtoncomms.co.uk](mailto:ltda@newingtoncomms.co.uk) to discuss what action the Government can take to ensure we keep London moving.

Yours sincerely

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Steve McNamara

**General Secretary, The Licensed Taxi Drivers’ Association (LTDA)**

Cc: David Kennedy, Director-General, Food, Farming, Animal and Plant Health