



July 2014

Insight into cab enforcement policing activity

Cab Enforcement News

Enforcement activities

Our efforts to tackle touting and cab-related offences include industry regulation and licensing, enforcement and education.

MPS Cab Enforcement Unit

The Metropolitan Police Service has a dedicated Cab Enforcement Unit (CEU) which is responsible for enforcing the law relating to taxis and private hire vehicles in London. The CEU works closely with the Safer Transport Teams and local borough police on joint operations to tackle touting and other cab related offences, with a specific focus reducing sex offences in cabs, through detection and deterrence activities.

TfL Compliance Team

Transport for London (TfL) has a dedicated compliance team who are responsible for enforcing the legislation and the law relating to taxis and private hire vehicles, and private hire operators in London. Their is to focus on reducing touting activities across the Capital by undertaking daily enforcement and on-street activities as well as compliance inspections for private hire operators.

Police and TfL Enforcement Measures:

- Ongoing covert and high-visibility anti-touting operations with the Safer Transport Teams, Cab Enforcement Unit and TfL Compliance Team, across London which aim to detect, disrupt and deter touts
- The Safer Travel at Night campaign continues to raise awareness of the dangers of unbooked minicabs and informs the public of the best ways to get home safely
- Placing windscreen stickers on vehicles when the driver has been arrested for touting, reminding other drivers of the consequences of breaking the law
- Deploying late night enforcement officers on a regular basis to carry out compliance activity and support joint operations with the police

Report touting & illegal cabs

Licensed and law abiding taxi and private hire drivers and other members of the public often have valuable information on touting and other cab-related offences across London. Such information is valuable in helping the MPS and TfL tackle the problem, so if you have information about touting or other illegal cab activity, please use TfL's reporting form:

<https://www.tfl.gov.uk/forms/12368.aspx>

Bogus Minicab Drivers Sentenced

Samuel Akinwale has been found guilty of fraud and was sentenced to 6 months curfew, disqualified for 9 months and fined. This follows a CEU and TfL Compliance Team operation on Bow Road E3. Akinwale's vehicle, which had two passengers on board, was pulled over for a routine compliance check and officers found his Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) licence had expired. He appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 12 and 13th June 2014 where he was found guilty.

Temesgen Tesfai was arrested for taxi touting on Plender Street, Camden, NW1 in the early hours of Sunday 8th June 2014 after touting one of the officers from the CEU. Tesfai initially gave false details, however, further enquiries confirmed his correct identity which revealed that he did not have a driving licence or any insurance to drive and was he was wanted for failing to appear at Dumfries Sheriffs Court for similar offences. Tesfai was charged with taxi touting, no insurance and driving otherwise in accordance with a driving licence and kept in custody overnight to appear at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court where he pleaded guilty to all three offences. He received a fine and was disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Konor Ali was found guilty of touting for hire, no insurance and dangerous driving at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court on Thursday 5 June 2014 and fined £700 and disqualified for 12 months. On 29 September 2013, Ali touted plain clothes police officers from the CEU on Camden High Street, NW1. When officers identified themselves, he attempted to drive off, almost running over an officer and colliding with an unmarked police vehicle. Ali was subsequently detained and arrested.

Operation Excalibur

Three men have been jailed recently for fraud as part of Operation Excalibur - a joint investigation with the MPS and TfL.

These sentences follow ongoing intelligence led work to crackdown on this type of illegal activity, which uses Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to target fraudulent taxi drivers who are posing as legitimate drivers.

TfL Private Prosecutions

Two men have been prosecuted for not holding operator licences following TfL private prosecutions.

Mr Jan was fined after pleading guilty to plying for hire and holding no operator licence at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 4th June 2014. He was caught touting on the 06th October 2013 by TfL Compliance Officers who observed the driver accepting to take four passengers without a booking made via an operator.

In the early hours of Sunday 16 September 2013 TfL Compliance Officers were in Derry Street, Kensington W8 conducting on street compliance checks, when they witnessed a woman with her children being touted by Mr Charles. He was referred for prosecution and appeared at City of London Magistrates Court on 29th May 2014 where he pleaded guilty to accepting a booking without an operator licence. He was fined and ordered to pay costs to TfL.

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