

RMT London Taxi Branch

July 2010

Welcome to the RMT London taxi branch and the news that the London Local Authorities and Transport for London (no.2) Bill has been revived in both Houses of Parliament.

Clause 19 of this bill will give TfL and London Boroughs the power to introduce 'rest bays', in other words 'ranks', for pedicabs/rickshaws.

We at the RMT have successfully delayed the progress of this Bill in the last Parliament, but we are saddened that many within the London taxi trade have been misled. TfL may well have dropped the idea of licensing pedicabs/rickshaws, but they have opted for the worse option: a 'voluntary registration' scheme which will merely lead members of the public into believing that these objects are licensed when in fact they are not.

The RMT is the only trade union prepared to object to clause 19 of the Bill. Others talk of banning these death traps, whilst we get on with doing the hard work necessary to stop pedicabs/rickshaws gaining ranks on the public highway.

- No to pedicab/rickshaw ranks.
- No to mini-cab ranks.

What is your trade organisation doing about Clause 19 of the Bill? The RMT is presently the only trade union within the London taxi trade prepared to object to this bill. How can Steve McNaMarshall of W9 hand out leaflets at a flower show informing people that pedicabs/rickshaws are death traps and then allow a Bill to progress through parliament unchallenged? Honestly, you couldn't make it up! www.rmtnoto19.blogspot.com

TAXI Newspaper, very odd...

In a recent edition of the once great trade paper TAXI, the editor - and we can only presume owners - have taken it upon themselves to inform the trade of PCO policy towards the RMT London taxi branch. We find this very worrying for both parties involved for it implies that the PCO have informed TAXI about a response to a policy that we have not officially or formally responded to.



The RMT London taxi branch contacted Lothian and Borders Police Force about the death of a man who is alleged to have fallen from a pedicab. The man died of head injuries. We await the result of a coroner's court hearing.



**The LTDA talks of a ban.
Unite talked of a ban.
The LCDC talks of a ban.
ONLY the RMT seeks a ban of
this unsafe transport which
we believe would not survive
a crash test at 20mph let
alone at 30mph.**

The self-employed London taxi driver needs to know why the United Trade Group wishes to see pedicabs ranking on the public highway. Remember: these are some of the same people who didn't know that TfL was creating satellite mini-cab offices. Maybe they haven't driven a taxi-cab for a while and rely on Steve McNaMarshall's opinion.

Mini-Cab Motorbikes: why the delay?

What is the delay in the consultation on mini-cab motorbikes? The Queen's bench division of the High Court ruled these bikes to be unsuitable for use as private hire vehicles, so why the delay in the result of the consultation here in London?

Identifying discs in taxi-cabs?

What has happened to the much-spoken-of discs that were to assist with stopping taxi-cab drivers from the suburbs working out of their sector?

Emissions

The RMT London Taxi branch is opposed to any age limit being applied/introduced to London's taxi-cabs and we urge the Mayor of London to follow the sensible, sound policy of the Department of Transport and allow natural wastage to deal with older taxi-cabs.

Transport for London decides what type of vehicle we drive and therefore any issue with NO2 particulates is the fault of the licensing authority and not the taxi-cab driver.

Satellite mini-cab offices

The RMT London taxi branch is opposed to satellite mini-cab offices; they create illegal ranks, deny legitimate London taxi-cab drivers work and certainly don't create safer travel at night. Time to scrap the satellite mini-cab office and join the RMT and our new campaign www.rmtsts.blogspot.com.

We are slowly losing our right to 'ply for hire' at night in London and this has an impact on us all. Suspending newer offices does nothing to the existing offices that openly 'tout' with cars 'ranking' illegally outside venues where we are denied ranks. TfL and the new Taxi Private Hire Directorate are failing the Taxi trade and we may need to take court action to redress the situation.

The Taxi trade fears failure and this fear holds us back and stops us challenging those in authority. The satellite mini-cab office is destroying our business model and this damages our ability to earn a living and renew our taxis. All our problems are linked and the present group of civil servants at TfL fail to understand the fragile, complex nature of our businesses.

www.rmtlondontaxibranch.blogspot.com

Join www.rmt.org.uk the RMT specialist transport union...

RMT members are entitled to free legal services from Thompson's Solicitors. If you are a member please do contact RMT legal services on;

0800 587 7516

If you wish to contact the branch direct please do call or text us via mobile on;

07899 786433

or via email at;

Londontaxi@rmt.org.uk

If you wish to join the only independent voice for taxi-cab drivers join the RMT online at www.rmt.org.uk/join

Is London going to POT?

Piccadilly and Oxford Circus have recently been upgraded and it seems these junctions do not function correctly with traffic jams a regular problem.

Couple these two junctions with the mess created around Trafalgar Square and we can see why London isn't working.

All these projects involved TfL and Westminster City Council, the very same people who complain about congestion and emissions from London taxi-cabs.

The Mayor and TfL couldn't give the taxi trade a rank outside the Buddha Bar on Victoria Embankment. The Bar has now closed; maybe we'll get the rank now?!