

Howard Luke (PCO)

From: David McLaren [dmclaren@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 November 2007 16:22
To: Howard Luke (PCO)
Subject: RE: FW: Draft PCO Notice on Royal Parks

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Luke

A few suggested changes. On timing, we need to proceed with consultation and then go to Parliament. Should we proceed with the change we would hope to complete the process by the summer.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Howard Luke (PCO) [mailto:Luke.Howard@tfl.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 November 2007 23:52
To: David McLaren
Subject: FW: Draft PCO Notice on Royal Parks

David, the draft Notice to taxi and (particularly) private hire trades, as discussed. Please let me have your comments.

It would be very helpful to add anything you might be able to say about the timescales for a review, but we appreciate this is probably difficult and don't want to make things difficult for you.

For information, we expect (to be confirmed) that the "go live" date for PHVs starting to show the new stickers and the stopping exemption on red routes will be 10 December.

Look forward to hearing from you,

Luke Howard
Senior Strategy & Integration Manager
TfL Public Carriage Office

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The Regulations governing Royal Parks prohibit any vehicle "constructed, adapted or in use for the purpose of a trade or business" from using roads in the Parks. There is a specific exemption for London licensed taxis, but this does not cover private hire vehicles (PHVs). This means that PHVs cannot drive in the Parks if they are on business, for example taking customers to or from Park venues (such as the Zoo or the Serpentine), unless the passenger resides in the parks.

Enforcement of this regulation has been variable due to the difficulty of identifying PHVs. The new PHV branding will make commercial vehicles more readily identifiable thus increasing the possible risk of a fine.

We have made clear that private hire vehicles provide a similar public service to taxis in many respects, and urged the agency to extend the exemption to include PHVs among the vehicles allowed to use the Parks.

In response to these requests, The Royal Parks has agreed to review the restrictions, and will be assessing the feasibility of allowing PHVs to drive in the Parks in the coming months. In the meantime the existing prohibition remains in force.

(Note: the Royal Parks are Bushy Park, Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent's Park (with Primrose Hill), Richmond Park and St James's Park)

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