

↳ Département for Culture, Media and Sport  
Rt Hon Tessa Jowell M/R  
Secretary of State

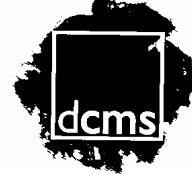
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Ken Livingstone  
Mayor of London  
City Hall  
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London  
SE1 2AA



22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005

*Mr Ken,*

**Licensed hire cars to use Royal Parks roads**

Thank you for your letter of 25 January asking me to consider whether vehicles licensed under the Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1988 could be exempt from the prohibition on commercial vehicles using the Royal Parks. I am sorry I have not answered sooner.

I fully support the measures you are introducing to make the capital's hire trade safer for the public, but I remain to be convinced that allowing licensed hire vehicles to operate in the Royal Parks is critical to achieving that.

The Royal Parks are principally places where the public can enjoy recreation and quiet relaxation and get away from the pressures of life in urban surroundings. The roads are an integral part of the parks and we try to keep the impact of traffic in the parks to a minimum. Commercial vehicles have always been excluded from the parks unless they have business with someone in a park. Black cabs are exempt because they can ply for hire and so provide a service to park visitors. Licensed hire cars can only take pre-booked fares, but they can use park roads if picking them up from, or dropping them off in, a Royal Park.

Nevertheless, I want to make sure that we have explored the issues you raise thoroughly. I have therefore asked Royal Parks officials to discuss the matter further with Transport for London and report back to me.

*Tessa*

*Tessa*

TESSA JOWELL



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE