

Transport for London

**Public Carriage Office**



## **Over-ranking at station ranks**

The PCO is currently receiving complaints about taxis over-ranking, particularly around mainline rail stations. Some complaints refer to the traffic congestion caused by this activity, particularly where the over-ranking goes onto trunk roads. Where residential streets and other roads are affected, residents can be adversely affected by noise and exhaust emissions.

The economic downturn means that it is much harder than usual to find work at the moment. It appears that many taxi drivers prefer to wait for considerable lengths of time on station ranks rather than ply for hire at other ranks or cruise for street hails. This is entirely reasonable, and drivers are free to choose how they spend their time and where they wait or ply for hire.

However, space on any taxi rank is limited and, when a rank is full drivers must not linger at the approach to the rank waiting for space to open up. This obstructs other traffic and gives rise to the complaints mentioned. A number of highway authorities have indicated that they will start enforcing waiting restrictions and penalising for obstruction offences if the present levels of over-ranking continue.

Drivers may wish to consider changing the times and places that they work in order to build up trade at inner London ranks, or provide safer options for evening and late night travel.

A list of London street ranks will shortly be available on the PCO website at [tfl.gov.uk/pco](http://tfl.gov.uk/pco).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Len Simkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

**Len Simkins**  
**Head of Strategy and Planning**

**28 May 2009**

For previous PCO Notices visit [tfl.gov.uk/pco](http://tfl.gov.uk/pco)