



Guidance for the drivers of private hire vehicles: Plying for hire and touting

Only a licensed taxi ('black cab') may ply for hire. PHV drivers are **not** allowed to ply for hire. The following guidelines are issued to assist private hire drivers in their understanding of what they may and may not do.

1. You **must not** draw attention to yourself as being available for hire. Any act or gesture accompanied by a conversation with a member of the public suggesting you are available for hire without a prior booking from your licensed operator is unlawful. This applies whether you are in your vehicle or not.
2. If you are approached by a potential passenger, whether you are sat in your vehicle or otherwise, you **must** direct the passenger towards your licensed operator's office to make the booking there in person or you **may** hand out a business card bearing the telephone number of your licensed operator, so the person can telephone the operator to make the booking.
3. You **must not** accept bookings from anyone other than your licensed operator.
4. You are **not** to allow any passenger to enter your vehicle without first having received a booking from your licensed operator.
5. Any vehicle movement with a passenger on board without a booking allocated by a licensed operator is **illegal**.
6. You **must** wear your PCO badge at all times whilst working in order to identify yourself as a licensed driver.

Drivers that are also licensed as PHV operators should pay close attention to PCO Notice 41/08 that provides guidance for licensed operators.

Any PHV driver plying for hire or accepting fares that have not been booked through a licensed operator is committing an offence that may result in a fine and the loss of their PHV driver's licence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Dowdye", written over a large, faint circular watermark or background.

Mary Dowdye
Head of Standards and Regulations

1 December 2008

For previous PCO Notices visit tfl.gov.uk/pco

MAYOR OF LONDON