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Official fuel consumption figures for the TX4 in mpg (l/100km): Urban 25.5 (11.1) - 28.0 (10.1), Extra Urban 38.2 (7.4) - 41.5 (6.8), Combined 32.0 (8.8) - 35.2 (8.0), CO2 emissions: 211 - 233 g/km.

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TAXI TRADE DEMONSTRATION TALKS HELD

On Wednesday 25th feb, the three main Trade Organizations, the L.C.D.C, along with the L.T.D.A and T&G Unite, accepted an offer to hold talks with both TFL and the Public Carriage Office with regard to the Demonstration earlier this month.

one of the main issues that we felt needed to be addressed was the anti-touting letter we all received from Mr Ed Thompson. When I took our new Mayor out on a fact finding mission to show him the epidemic of Mini Cab touting he explained to me that he would be introducing a new initiative to combat the Minicab touting problem calling it a " One Strike And Out " policy. So you can imagine my shock and surprise when WE were all included into this policy by the P.C.O.

So I am pleased to say that Mr Ed Thompson, has since had time to reflect on his letter, and realises his mistake in this matter and I for one applaud him for being big enough to hold his hands up and admit he had made a error of judgement in this instance, well done Mr Thompson. The letter will state ;

" This policy was targeted mainly at the minority of PHV drivers who illegally seek to ply for hire. As a result, the PCO has revoked over 50 PHV driver licences following Magistrates court convictions since August 2008.

There has never been any intention to change the historic and unique right of Licensed taxi drivers to ply for hire in London...The policy of " One strike and out" highlights the fact that PHV drivers do not - and will never have the right to ply for hire. The PCO upholds this principle and it is well understood in the Magistrates Courts ".....

" I apologise for any confusion caused by including Licensed taxi drivers in the One Strike and Out policy, TFL and Westminster City Council have agreed to work together with the Licensed Taxi Trade and others to improve late night travel in the West End and deal with Illegal touting, and related offences".

All three Organizations have agreed that TFL, along with Westminster City Council, and the P.C.O must start to take seriously the Touting epidemic, and the Clipboard Johnnies that have infected the Capital like a plague. We have stated that rows of cars outside Clubs and bars will no longer be tolerated, and if there is not a clean up campaign that we can see working within the next few weeks, then unfortunately the Trade will have to undertake another demonstration, and maybe more until the Authorities take our concerns seriously.

This situation at Whitcomb Street could have been avoided if the Taxi Trade had been consulted about this scheme in advance. We were not and because of this behaviour towards us by others, we were forced into action.

We need to work on a whole new system of getting people home safely at night times within this great City Of Ours. Better and more going home ranks, shared Taxis at night, Marshall's at Mainline Train stations when the Trains stop running, all this and more needs to be sorted out sooner rather than later, we must become more PRO-active not RE-active in defining our futures, and with the Olympics not to far away, lets not leave it all to the last minute shall we ?

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