

Elaine Lorimer
Chief Executive
Law Commission
Steel House
11 Tothill Street
London SW1H 9LJ

18 September 2013

Dear Mrs Lorimer,

Taxi and Private Hire Services

I wished to write to you about the Law Commission's review of taxi and private hire services in England and Wales.

I note from your interim guidance, released in April, that *'Pedicabs and stretch limousines are two examples that we recommend bringing clearly within the scope of taxi and private hire regulation, such that they may be controlled as necessary.'*

I wished to advise you of my support for your position. I do not know if you are aware, but I put forward a Pedicab Bill in 2010 which would make provision for the control of pedicabs. The Bill's provisions would have included licensing and registration of pedicabs, the maximum number of passengers to be carried, reporting of accidents and display of advertisements. I did this with the assistance of Westminster City Council because the proliferation in the West End and beyond of such vehicles is something that is causing a great deal of disturbance and disruption to my constituents.

Now that the summer season has come to a close, I wanted to advise you of the huge number of complaints I have received from residents about noise from pedicab operators. Many attach boom boxes to their vehicles that blare out music at all hours of the evening. The proliferation of these vehicles also causes traffic chaos in my constituency and, as you will be aware, there are also serious safety concerns relating to their use. Residents are fed up but there is little that can be done while these vehicles remain outside the scope of regulation. I therefore fully support these vehicles being licensed and regulated so that we do not have another summer of misery.

Turning to black cabs, I wish to support the Mayor of London's representations to you about the need to avoid diluting the black cab trade by nationalising standards across the country. As he suggests, we need to ensure our London taxi trade remains the pride of the city and I ask that you treat it as a special case in your review.

I should be most grateful if these views could be taken into account as you finalise your proposals.

With kind regards,

