

Stay safe – book your cab

With the festive season under way, TfL and its policing partners are cracking down on illegal and unbooked minicabs across the capital.

TOUTING hotspots will be patrolled to deter illegal activity and help the public get home safely.

To support the campaign, called Safer Travel at Night, TfL has produced a film that highlights the work of police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Cab Enforcement Unit. It shows the team carrying out enforcement operations across London as they target minicab drivers illegally touting for business.

The Safer Travel at Night campaign has been running for more than ten years and is a partnership between the Mayor of London, TfL, the MPS and the City of London Police. It aims to make the public aware of the dangers of getting into unbooked minicabs hailed on the street and provides advice on the best ways to get home safely.

Steve Burton, TfL's director of enforcement

and on-street operations, said: 'During the festive season more people are out and about, celebrating on nights out. Use a taxi or a minicab that is booked through a licensed operator – either online, via an app, by phone or in person at a minicab office – for a safer way home.'

'We hope this new video will bring to life the importance of always pre-booking minicabs for a safer journey home. It also highlights our commitment to keeping passengers safe and cracking down on this illegal activity.'

TfL directly funds 68 dedicated police cab enforcement officers, 41 TfL compliance officers (this number will be doubled by 2016) and 32 vehicle inspection staff as part of the work to stamp out illegal minicab activity.

■ To watch the video on YouTube search for 'Safer Travel at Night'



Beware the dangers of using unbooked minicabs

Passengers are being warned that unbooked minicabs are not safe:

- The only way to know your minicab is safe is to book it directly with the minicab company via phone, online or in person
- It guarantees that your trip will be carried out by a licensed, insured driver in a licensed, insured vehicle
- It also means that a record is kept of your journey, your driver and the vehicle used, so in the event of any problems the driver can be traced

New Routemasters for Route 159

BUS route 159 is the latest in the capital to be served entirely by New Routemasters.

The 24-hour route, between Marble Arch and Streatham, will run with 35 of the buses and carry around 27,000 people each weekday in peak hours. This latest conversion is a step towards delivering 800 of the vehicles by 2016, helping to reduce CO₂ emissions by around 27,500 tonnes a year.

A total of 18 London bus routes are now running with the New Routemasters and their introduction is part of a major programme to cut emissions from the bus fleet. It also includes bringing into service 1,700 hybrids by 2016, accelerating the introduction of ultra low emission Euro VI buses and retrofitting 2,000 older buses to reduce their nitrous oxides emissions by up to 88 per cent per bus.



TfL is giving the Congestion Charge a holiday

25 December - 1 January

Mya, Cake Delivery Driver



From 25 December - 1 January inclusive, there will be no central London Congestion Charge. Search Congestion Charge.



A vintage transport book to treasure

QUIRKY drawings inspired by London's transport system accompany all 26 letters of the alphabet in this little gem of a book – making it the perfect stocking filler.

First printed in 1915, 'An Alphabet of T.O.T.' is illustrated by the well-known poster artist Charles

Pears and was produced to help raise funds for the families of transport workers during the First World War.

■ Available from London Transport Museum in Covent Garden or from www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk for £5.99

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 tfl.gov.uk

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   tfl.gov.uk/socialmedia

London Travelwatch
London's transport watchdog
call 020 3176 2999, or visit
www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

*Service and network charges apply.
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