

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
City Hall

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Web: www.london.gov.uk

Our ref: CP/BJ
Your ref:
Date: 10 September 2009

Dear Boris

Public Carriage Office Review

There is great concern among Londoners about the case of a person who has been licensed by the Public Carriage Office to drive private hire vehicles and to take the "Knowledge" test for black cab drivers although he has a spent conviction for manslaughter and has accepted a police caution for assault as recently as three months ago.

While we welcome the PCO's decision to carry out an independent review, this will inevitably be compromised unless it is seen to be genuinely independent and carried out by people of standing unconnected with the PCO.

The review needs to examine, more widely than this particular case, the existing rules which appear to permit persons with serious mental health issues to be licensed to drive black cabs and minicabs.

Londoners need to have confidence that they can safely use cabs and minicabs driven by persons licensed by the PCO.

I look forward to your taking urgent action to ensure that the PCO re-considers their decision, and institutes a wider review as I have suggested above.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Pidgeon
Transport Spokesperson
Liberal Democrat London Assembly Group