



### Leicester Square (Whitcomb Street)

There have been reports about a minicab "rank" being set up in Whitcomb Street, near Leicester Square. These reports are incorrect: no rank is permitted for minicabs or other private hire vehicles, here or elsewhere in London.

The TKTS booth in Leicester Square has been licensed by TfL as a private hire operating centre through the same licensing processes that apply for any other premises used by a private hire operator.

Westminster City Council has changed the traffic orders for the tour bus stand in Whitcomb St, which is taken out of operation at night (9 pm - 4 am) allowing vehicles to stop to pick up or set down passengers. Parking and waiting are not permitted on this stretch of road at these times. However, a dispensation is in place allowing licensed vehicles from West1 Minicabs, the operator licensed to use the TKTS booth, to wait a short time for a booked passenger. Enforcement of the parking and waiting restrictions is a matter for Westminster City Council.

Vehicles are not available for immediate hire without a booking taken at the licensed operating centre. After making a booking at the licensed office, passengers are escorted to Whitcomb Street to locate the booked vehicle. All aspects of taxi and private hire legislation must be complied with.

Taxi ranks on Whitcomb Street and Coventry Street are served by hackney carriages which can take customers without any booking.

**29 December 2008**

For previous PCO Notices visit [tfl.gov.uk/pco](http://tfl.gov.uk/pco)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Len Simkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

**Len Simkins**  
**Head of Strategy and Planning**