



### **Private hire vehicles and red routes**

From **Monday 17 December 2007**, private hire vehicles will be allowed to set down and pick up passengers on the Transport for London Road Network (red routes), provided they display additional signage.

Unlike black cabs, private hire vehicles (PHVs) are difficult to distinguish from other vehicles on the road. Vehicles will therefore need to display additional signage so that other road users, police and CCTV enforcement operators can easily identify that they are allowed to stop on red routes.

All private hire operators are eligible to apply for the signage for vehicles that display PCO licence discs. The signage is provided free by the PCO. However, it is not compulsory to apply for the signage. If a driver does not intend to set down and pick up on red routes, no change is needed.

The additional signage must not be displayed on unlicensed vehicles or on PHVs for which an exemption from displaying licence discs has been granted, and therefore the drivers of such vehicles will not have red route exemption. This signage does not replace the private hire vehicle licence disc – vehicles will continue to display licence discs in addition to the new signs.

The Public Carriage Office has written to all licensed private hire operators with full information about how to apply for the signage for the vehicles that they operate.

The revised traffic orders allow PHVs, like taxis, to stop on single and double red lines "for so long only as may be required to enable a passenger to get on or off the vehicle" if fitted with the signage. PHVs stopping without displaying the new signage, or waiting or parking in places where this is prohibited, will still be liable to a penalty charge of £120 issued to the registered vehicle owner.

More information can be obtained from the Transport for London web site at [tfl.gov.uk/pco](http://tfl.gov.uk/pco) or by email to [RedRouteSignage@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:RedRouteSignage@tfl.gov.uk).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Len Simkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

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

**14 December 2007**

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