



## **Private Hire Vehicles and Royal Parks**

The Regulations governing Royal Parks prohibit any vehicle "constructed, adapted or in use for the purpose of a trade or business" from using roads in the Parks. There is a specific exemption for London licensed taxis, but this does not cover private hire vehicles (PHVs). This means that PHVs cannot drive in the Parks if they are on business, for example taking customers to or from Park venues (such as the Zoo or the Serpentine), unless the passenger resides in the parks.

Enforcement of this regulation has been variable due to the difficulty of identifying PHVs. The licence discs and the forthcoming red route exemption signage makes these vehicles more readily identifiable, thus increasing the possible risk of a fine.

We have made clear that private hire vehicles provide a similar public service to taxis in many respects, and urged Royal Parks to extend the exemption to include PHVs among the vehicles allowed to use the Parks.

In response to these requests, Royal Parks has agreed to review the restrictions, and will be consulting on whether to allow PHVs to drive in the Parks in the coming months. In the meantime the existing prohibition remains in force.

(Note: the Royal Parks are Bushy Park, Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent's Park (with Primrose Hill), Richmond Park and St James's Park)

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

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

**3 December 2007**

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