



Gerrard Chauffeur Drive Limited  
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#### NOTIFICATION OF NEW CONGESTION CHARGE

As I am sure you are aware our regulator, Transport For London (“TFL”), has decreed that from 8 April 2019 private hire vehicles will no longer be exempt from paying the Congestion Charge when driving in central London during charging hours (Monday to Friday, 07:00 to 18:00). From 8 April 2019 private hire vehicles entering the Congestion Charge zone between 07:00 and 18:00, Monday to Friday will need to pay the full daily charge.

The removal of the exemption has been implemented by TFL as part of a raft of regulatory changes in the guise of reducing traffic and congestion in Central London.

As you might expect, the removal of the congestion charge exemption was opposed firmly by Gerrard and its fellow members of the private hire industry when it was first proposed by TFL, not least because it is far from clear that the measure will achieve its primary goal of reducing traffic congestion. The LPHCA, the trade association of our industry, has been fighting the removal of the exemption and Gerrard, together with many of its fellow operators, contributed to a fund in excess of £200,000 for this purpose.

The Mayor of London has implemented this measure despite evidence to suggest that it would lead to a fall of only 1% in the number of private hire vehicles entering the congestion zone each day. Any consequential improvement of air quality will, therefore, be negligible. Our view, which is shared by many, is that this policy is an excuse to raise money to plug a deficit in the transport budget and an unwarranted tax on business. We feel particularly aggrieved that this measure has been implemented by the Mayor despite the London Assembly having voted against it in September 2018.

To account for this increased cost and so that Gerrard can continue to provide you with the highest possible level of service, from 8 April 2019 Gerrard will be adding a £5.00 TFL congestion charge to each booking carried out by one of our vehicles in the UK. The charge will be visible on your invoices and/or credit card statements going forward and, being a toll, will appear under the heading of “Expenses/Tolls”.

Gerrard has always prided itself on the fairness and transparency of its pricing and resists, wherever possible, the inclusion of supplementary charges such as admin charges and gratuities. We also try to avoid imposing tariff increases on our clients unless absolutely necessary. We hope you will appreciate our decision to include such a charge on this occasion, which simply reflects the toll charge which has been levied on each of our vehicles by TFL.

I remain at your disposal should you have any questions or concerns.

Simon Beecroft  
Chairman  
Gerrard Chauffeur Drive Limited

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