



Councillor Adam Hug
Leader
Westminster City Council

Councillor Paul Swaddle
Leader of the Minority Group

By email only: cleader@westminster.gov.uk

14 November 2024

Andy Lord
Commissioner of Transport

Transport for London
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Dear Adam and Paul,

Pedicabs Regulation

Thank you for your letter regarding the regulation of Pedicabs in London and for providing some elements of the scheme you consider are essential.

I am really pleased that TfL has now been granted the powers to introduce a regulatory regime for Pedicabs and we are keen to progress this as quickly as possible. Our Licensing and Regulation team has experience of introducing new regulatory frameworks and understand the importance of establishing an effective regime, but we must also ensure we have workable rules that can remain effective for years to come and this takes time to develop.

All of the issues in your letter are already under active consideration and many have already been discussed with your officers.

You will no doubt be aware that the Act requires TfL to consult whoever it considers appropriate before making pedicab regulations. We intend to carry out a full public consultation early in the New Year on the proposed regime. Feedback from the consultation will help shape these important new regulations and will help enable us to confirm a timetable for their introduction. This timetable will include time for the regulations to be laid before Parliament via a Statutory Instrument as envisaged by the Act.

Ahead of the consultation we continue to engage with a number of stakeholders, including pedicab operators and pedicab operator associations as well as Westminster City Council and business groups such as The Soho Society and the Heart of London Business Alliance. We will be meeting with Rachel Blake MP and some of the businesses in her constituency later this month as part of this ongoing engagement.

I am grateful for the suggestions included in your letter with recommendations for areas you consider are essential for pedicab regulation. I know all of these points are being actively considered by the team as they shape the consultation material. Your first-hand experience of pedicabs in Westminster is extremely valuable and we would welcome further engagement with yourselves or officers. We would also welcome any quantitative information you have, or may be able to collect, to help us build up as full a picture as possible of the way they currently operate. For example, the number of pedicabs you see, at what locations and what times of the day and week etc.

In your letter you mentioned the possibility of establishing some form of interim scheme. It would be useful for our teams to discuss this further but we are mindful that any interim regulations, irrespective of their simplicity or narrow focus, would still require full public consultation and be laid before Parliament in accordance with the Pedicabs (London) Act 2024. This would therefore not be a quick solution.

I acknowledge the timeline for introduction the regulations is longer than you hoped, however we are working to get them in place as soon as practicable. In the interim, I feel it would be useful for a follow up discussion between our teams which will allow us to explore whether there is anything we can do using existing powers held by either organisation or others to help with the current issues Westminster residents, visitors and businesses are experiencing.

Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Lord', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Lord