

Appendix A – E-mail from member of the trade

Hello Geri and Yvonne,

Good to see you both on Friday.

I am contacting you today regarding HCV numbers.

I remember a while back there was a discussion at the Forum meeting about plates coming back, and whether these plate should be passed on to those on the waiting list, or not to issue any out and bring numbers down. We, back then agreed on 'pass on' option.

We are in unprecedented times now, and although there is a vaccine, we faces a long road to economic recovery. Also, over the few years our (HCV) work volume has been in constant decline. This is entirely to do with technological development, making App booking increasingly attractive / convenient. PHV drivers financial commitment to a vehicle is considerably less, and as you know from my previous emails, phv drivers can cherry-pick were to license their plate cheaply and bypass most of our requirements. Furthermore, their (uber) price is also about a third less. They can afford to do that, usually they will land on a job at other end and balance out. Its great business model, sadly one we cannot compete with.

Now where I am going with this is taxi rank or lack of it. You'll remember me asking for a rank on New Square - there needs to be another discussion for more ranks so that we can work harmoniously. If we are not managed, we create chaos, disorder and there is so many times a driver can go round looking for a space before he / she makes a foolish decision to pull on to back of Drummer St Rank for instance, blocking off access. This puts us in direct conflict with buses, cycles and frankly speaking it is embarrassing as public witness this daily.

If you can stop or freeze issuing plates that come back to you, it will help, and the person receiving a plate making around 30k commitment could be saved from making one of worst decision of his or her life.

Thank you for reading my email and I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm wishes,