

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Mayor's Office

John Kennedy

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Dear Mr Kennedy

Thank you for your email about my Air Quality Strategy consultation and the proposal to introduce age limits for taxis. As you know the consultation closed on 13 August and I am in the process of reviewing all the responses received including the response from the RMT and those of your colleagues in the taxi trade.

The final version of the strategy will be published later this year, taking account of all the responses that have been received. However, taxis are a significant source of PM₁₀ in London, accounting for over 30% of road transport exhaust emissions in central London and the proposed age limits for taxis is an important element of the strategy. Without the action outlined in the strategy, London faces significant penalties from the EU and the levels of harmful pollutants which are estimated to contribute to over 4,000 deaths a year in London will continue to blight our great city.

I can assure you that, working with Transport for London (TfL), we continue to explore all possible avenues to identify sources of funding that may assist affected drivers to mitigate the cost of replacing taxis. As you point out, factors such as the cost of the vehicle excise duty have the effect of discouraging drivers from upgrading to new cabs, and I will continue to lobby the national Government to address these issues. In recent months I have had encouraging meetings with the existing taxi manufacturers and they are working with TfL on the development of affordable, less-polluting and more efficient taxis and I will continue to do all I can to support this process.

Finally, with regards to the RMT's participation in discussions with the taxi trade regarding the Air Quality Strategy, I understand TfL have set out their approach for engaging with taxi driver trade associations and that the RMT are due to respond to this policy in due course.

In the meantime, TfL assure me they will continue to include the RMT on relevant consultations and your members' views will always be carefully considered.

Yours sincerely



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London