

CARD PAYMENTS TO BE ACCEPTED IN EVERY BLACK CAB

03 February 2016

Travelling in one of London's iconic black cabs is about to become even easier. Today (3 February) it was confirmed that every London taxi will be required to accept card payments for their fares by October this year. The move was approved by the Board of Transport for London (TfL) following a consultation in which an overwhelming 86% of respondents backed the move.

Cash has always been the standard method of payment in London's 22,500 licensed taxis but around half of all cab drivers now accept card payments. By requiring cards to be accepted in all black cabs, taking a cab will be even easier for Londoners and visitors.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson MP, said: 'It's great news that with a quick swipe of a card, millions of passengers will be able to pay for their journeys in London's iconic black cabs. It's an essential part of modern life and it'll make paying for your journey swifter and simpler than ever before.'

Garrett Emmerson, TfL's Chief Operating Officer for Surface Transport, said: 'We believe the acceptance of card and contactless payments will be a huge plus for both taxi drivers and their passengers. Card payments are part of everyday life in London, and people use them in every aspect of their lives. The TfL network is seeing more and more contactless payments so this would bring the taxi trade into line with other transport services in the Capital. It means that customers no longer have to check whether they have cash for a journey beforehand and will open up taxis to potential new customers.'

TfL has also committed to working with the card industry to link card payment devices directly to the taximeter in future.

Richard Koch, Head of Policy at The UK Cards Association, said: 'Consumers are increasingly choosing to pay with cards as a convenient and secure alternative to cash. It's great news for Londoners, and visitors to the Capital, that they'll always have the option of using a debit or credit card in taxis now too. With one in ten card transactions now contactless, many passengers will also welcome the ability simply to touch and pay for their cab journey.'

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- Customers using cards will not pay any surcharge on their fare. This will mean that passengers will only ever pay what is shown on the meter, no matter by what means they choose to pay.
- Under the proposals all card equipment will be approved by TfL and must be available for customers to use conveniently. This will ensure that drivers will have a wide range of options to choose from when deciding which equipment to install in their taxi.
- The plans follow on from a TfL Board decision last September to review whether credit card acceptance in cabs should become mandatory.
- The consultation received more than one thousand responses from a wide range of stakeholders, including taxi trade organisations, passenger safety groups, card industry representatives and the London Assembly Transport Committee.
- A copy of the consultation report is available on our website:
<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/taxis/card-payment>

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