



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Taxis: 2020 Programme

Draft priorities for 2020

Taxi and PHV regulation

- To secure updated taxi and PHV regulation through primary legislation for the benefit of passengers and drivers across the country.

Future of the taxi trade

- To promote the ZEC taxi and demonstrate the trade's commitment to reducing harmful emissions while working to ensure that calls on the trade to modernise are balanced against its ability to survive.
- To secure the extension of the Plug-in Taxi Grant beyond 2020.
- To explore ways in which the trade can adapt and modernise, including potential updates to the Knowledge.

Draft proposed programme of activity 2020

Taxi and PHV regulation

The previous Government's response to the report of the Task and Finish Group on Taxi and Private Hire Licensing detailed the recommendations that it planned to take forward to update taxi and PHV regulation. However, they did not take this forward, and ultimately taxi and PHV legislation was not included in either the Queen's Speech in October or December 2019. It is vital for the future of the trade that the freshly formed Government brings forward primary legislation with urgency.

As such, the Secretariat proposes that the Group:

- Writes to the Secretary of State for Transport to request that the Government takes up taxi and PHV licensing reform as a key issue the new Parliament.
- Identifies opportunities – both within the media and in Parliament – for high-profile members of the APPG to call on Government to bring forward primary legislation on the full set of recommendations put forward by the Task and Finish Group.

Future of the taxi trade

Over the past several years, the APPG has successfully raised the profile of the ZEC taxi in Parliament and demonstrated the trade's commitment to improving air quality.

Simultaneously, the APPG has highlighted the pressures placed by the Mayor of London and TfL on the trade to cut its emissions without adequate rapid charging infrastructure in place in London to support the take up of the ZEC cab. It will be a priority for the APPG to maintain this work and amplify its voice on these issues. The falling numbers of taxi drivers is also a priority area for consideration, and as such it is vital to identify opportunities for the trade to become more widely accessible.

As such, the Secretariat recommends that the Group:

- Organises a visit for APPG Members and Transport Committee Members to visit the LEVC factory in Coventry. This would be to showcase the ZEC cab and to discuss the need for the extension of the Plug-In Taxi Grant beyond 2020, and would happen alongside continued advocacy for the issue in Parliament.
- Continues to invite members of the APPG on Taxis to take a ride in the ZEC cab with the aim of publicising their positive experiences, the issue of electric charging infrastructure and the difficulties that the trade have faced in maintaining access to key roads in London despite its vital role as a disability accessible door-to-door service and commitment to tackling congestion and air pollution.
- Holds up to three evidence sessions on how the Knowledge could be streamlined in order to open up the trade and bring in a wider level of diversity among drivers, as well as to further increase accessibility.

Other events

- Summer drinks reception – this would require specific sponsorship.
- Rolled over from late 2019 (postponed due to Queen's Speech / General Election): Co-host an event in Parliament with the APPG on Electric and Automated Vehicles to promote the ZEC cab and the need for more rapid charging infrastructure and financial incentives to support its roll out.