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TfL boss Sir Peter Hendy made 398 taxi trips on expenses



Taxi trips: Peter Hendy

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Dick Murray, Transport Correspondent

16 January 2013

The head of London's public transport has used taxis nearly 400 times during the past three years for which he has charged expenses, new figures reveal today.

Sir Peter Hendy — Commissioner of Transport for London and knighted in the Queen's New Year Honours for services to transport and the community — lists the 398 trips among the £16,125 of expense claims.

The figure includes business and working dinners, registration and travel to transport conferences — as well as £31.91 for some coffee mugs for his office.

Details were revealed after a freedom of information request made by Martin Hosck of MayorWatch, the

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independent group which examines spending by the Mayor of London and senior staff.

Transport

Transport for London launched a robust defence.

London Underground

In a statement accompanying the figures, TfL said: "Sir Peter Hendy travels to and from work by public transport and he regularly uses public transport when travelling in the capital on business.

"He is overseeing the delivery of a 10-year, multi-million-pound budget to manage transport in London and also to deliver Crossrail and the upgrade of the Tube and there are occasions when his full schedule and late hours necessitate the use of taxis." Sir Peter's claim covers the years 2010 (£5,316.52), 2011 (£5,666.77) and 2012 (£5,141.99).

The coffee mugs were purchased on October 5, 2011, in two lots costing £7.96 and £23.95.

MayorWatch published the findings on its website today. It states: "Sir Peter's claims for 2012 include more than £2,500 on taxis and travelling costs. He also claimed hundreds of pounds on meals and £99.60 for a subscription to Ville Rail & Transports magazine."

According to the FoI response, expenses claimed by TfL's seven most senior executives totalled more than £22,000 between 2010 and September 2012.

TfL's annual report reveals Sir Peter earned £331,175 last year - more than twice the £143,911 earned by Mayor Boris Johnson.

In contrast, London Underground managing director Mike Brown did not claim for any taxis during 2010 and 2011. His total expenses for 2010 came to £112 and in 2011 £710.95. There is nothing listed for last year.

A Transport for London spokeswoman said: "As part of its recognition of its role as a public body and its commitment to achieving value for money, TfL has controls in place to ensure financial probity.

"TfL has a business expenses policy which provides for staff to claim expenses incurred in the course of their duties subject to the parameters in the policy including authorisation procedures."

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Anonymous 19 hours ago

He's laughing all the way to the bank just like everyone else involved at higher levels in telling everyone else how they must live their lives. Overpaid and privileged hypocrites the lot of them.

Knighthood for what? Greed? Recent revelations about previous knights highlighted mistaken choices as well remember.

Reply

+1

Jaime Gamell 22 hours ago

The only mugs here are the ones who permit an overpaid executive to

energy price hike

Barry McGuigan teams up with Boris Johnson to knock us into shape

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fleece the very system he is employed to protect and improve.

Reply

+2

rodders123 1 day ago

So what?

Reply

-2

Anonymous 1 day ago

Peter Hendy taxi use reflects how bad buses have got since Boris has been Mayor!

Reply

+2

Kooldos 2 days ago

Shocking and complete hypocrisy! He should be demonstrating to Londoners being head of TIL that the Underground is a far better way to get around and not wasting public money on taxis. Also, why should he be earning more than the PM (and the Mayor) considering his work is only a fraction of what the PM does? The same goes for other public officials.

In response to comments below - In light of what is happening on the high street with stores going bust due to changes in technology why should manual jobs be any different? There is no need to have that many staff on ticket duty when you now have Oyster cards which can be topped up either online, ticket machines or newsagents.

Times have changed and the unions need to recognise this as automated trains have been proven to work, for example the DLR and now the French Metro system and elsewhere. The sooner this gets implemented the sooner we will get rid of unnecessary strikes and London will be better for it.

Reply

0

Anonymous 2 days ago

disgusting. ex bus driver hendy now earns 330k pa plus perks and a knighthood. no doubt he gets a company car like all the group station managers get. should be sacked then again he would get a nice pension and a tax free lumpsum.

Reply

+2

colinhenry 2 days ago

An overpaid waste of space.A Ken crony who quickly went Boris native.Considering his hatred of the London taxi trade he makes plenty use of them.Although of course,not with his own money.

Reply

1 reply

-1

Anonymous 1 day ago

Seems bendy Hendy now thinks taxi is trendy!

Reply

+2

Anonymous 2 days ago

This is a non issue in my opinion. Transport under Peter has come on leaps and bounds.

I don't like the closure of ticket office at tube stations but most other things, especially The Overground, seem to be going well.

Reply

2 replies

-3

colinhenry 2 days ago

And absolutely nothing to do with Hendy.

Reply

+2

Anonymous 1 day ago

That's thanks to MAYOR KEN!

Need for taxis has arisen since NOGO BOJO came along!

Reply

+1

Anonymous 2 days ago

With a taxi habit like that he should be working for the BBC!

Reply

+1

Anonymous 2 days ago

How he was knighted is mystery to everyone in the company.

Reply

+1

Anonymous 2 days ago

When anyone has an expenses account, they will use and abuse it, we still have MP's doing it, how many go on business trips abroad, just because they can, not because they really need to. I thought we had Boris bikes to



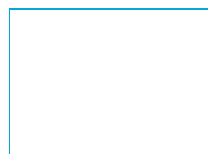
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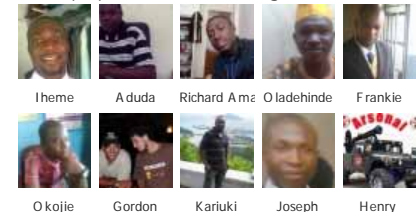
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+1



Anonymous 2 days ago

Lets have a system of Boris Cars strategically placed to get around London.

Or get City Hall to run a Car Fleet or Motorbike Courier Service for their employees. Who signs off his travel expenses?

dhanraj

[Reply](#)

0



Bus User 2 days ago

Another non story from the Standard. Time is money to a guy in his position, dont really see the problem here.

[Reply](#)

-1



Anonymous 2 days ago

If Hendy bothered to try cycling he'd soon find out why his "smoother traffic flow" agenda has discouraged the vast majority of Londoners from using a bike.

[Reply](#)

+1



Anonymous 2 days ago

That works out an everage of around 3 taxis per week ... not really a lot for a guy with his role. But the average cost is over £40 which seems a bit steep, even given the ridiculous price of London taxis.

[Reply](#)

[2 replies](#)

0



the lone gunman 2 days ago

The figure quoted for 2012 was £2.5k for taxis and travelling costs. I suspect thats a rollup figure of anything related to travel - so planes, trains and automobiles.

I agree that London taxis are expensive though.

[Reply](#)

0



urrymun 2 days ago

I've started using Taxis again, cheaper than minicabs these days, and sometimes work out cheaper than the bus and tube if there's enough of us.

[Reply](#)

+1



bj east london 2 days ago

As usual most of the comments are jealously based.

However, with the exception of the comment about the need to conduct teleconferences, taxis are a waste of money to most London venues. I frequently have to get across London urgently and for the most part the underground is quicker. Of course that ignores the fact that most people these days seem to be incapable of walking more than 100 yards.

[Reply](#)

-2



Anonymous 2 days ago

Surely he earns enough to pay for taxis out of his own pocket!

[Reply](#)

+2



the lone gunman 2 days ago

That isn't that much use of taxis to be honest in a 4 year period (less than 8 trips per month on average). I would bet most of those coincided with having to travel for a meeting but needed to be on conference calls whilst en route, which is pretty typical for most senior execs in the commercial world. It comes down to the most effective use of time vs spend vs the most practical option to get where you need to be.

Seriously its obvious that he is generally using public transport for the majority of the time, so what's the real problem?

[Reply](#)

[3 replies](#)

+3

daisydoo 2 days ago

Commercial organisations are increasingly video conferencing instead of attending meetings. It's time those spending tax payers money did likewise.

[Reply](#)

[2 replies](#)

+2

Anonymous 2 days ago

Makes sense.

0

the lone gunman 2 days ago

daisydoo

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Yes commercial organisations are making huge use of video and audio conferencing. However there are still times when you need to go somewhere else for a meeting and sometimes you need to be on the phone whilst you are on the way there. Often these aren't conversations you can have on a bus for confidentiality reasons.

Frankly his expenses claims over the period are pretty reasonable at around £5K a year in total so its not like he is p***** taxpayer cash up the wall that way.

+1

 **urymun** 2 days ago

He's a multi millionaire, he can do what he likes.

-1

 **ArfurZTowcrate** 2 days ago

Fair enough, give him an all-zones Oyster card and a Boris bike key free of charge, but if he wants to get taxis, let him pay for them out of his own pocket.

[1 reply](#)

+3

 **HoveExPat** 2 days ago

In his position he already gets a free "staff" oyster card. He also owns his own Routemaster bus. I have to say I am suprised at him doing this. Funny how some people change over the years.

+1

 **daisydoo** 2 days ago

In many commercial organisations, staff choice is determined/dictated by the client (ie the type of mobile device provided, the food for sale in canteen). Why not make it a contractual obligation for people such as Hendy that when travelling within zones 1 & 2 he is obliged to use public transport?

+4

 **Orson** 2 days ago

Can't we get a mug shot?

+1

 **Sir Codesalot** 2 days ago

What a surprise. Fire him.

+4

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