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CAB:APP DRIVING CHANGE &

EDITOR'S REVEALING LOOK AT ONE JOURNEY IN AN UBER CAB

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EDITORIAL

Christmas comes but once a year. Luckily for you, the Taxi Magazine is the newest addition to the fleet and we'll be dropping by about 5 times a year!

Before we get started on what you can read in this edition, please allow us to introduce ourselves.

The Taxi Magazine is the only dedicated free Manchester/Liverpool taxi magazine for dedicated Liverpudlian and Mancunian taxi drivers.

It is an essential read for every driver and stakeholder in the industry, covering everything from political issues affecting the industry, campaigns by representative bodies and groups, local stories and news, and personal stories. It also features the only comprehensive directory of reputable UK companies advertising services to taxi drivers at discounted rates.

It is published and distributed by Top Publish Limited, an Irish-owned, locally based publishing firm with a collective 15 years of experience between its directors. Our experience has been primarily in publishing, media, communications and advertising. Our main aim is to have an ongoing high quality magazine, published 5 times yearly, with low cost advertising for all involved.

The key strength of The Taxi Magazine in Ireland is its distribution. We are a growing company expanding into the UK with an aim of steadily increased distribution points.

Our advertising rebook rate in Ireland is over 80% and we expect this to be retained or improved on in the UK market.

So that's the about-us bit.

But this magazine is about you, the industry driver.

And, as it is in many parts of the world right now, this is an anxious time for honest, full-time drivers as certain app companies arrive on the scene without taxi meters in an attempt to try corner the market.

In our Irish editions in the past, we have asked many questions of the controversial company, Uber.

Their attempts to enter the Dublin market flat-lined as ourselves and others raised questions over their operations and operating methods.

Editorially, we will bring the same issues to light in the UK market as we did in Ireland.

Our main story this month is how, unfortunately, drivers in London have lost a case against Uber - allowing the app to continue its expansion. However, whilst this Editor was in the US last month, I had a disconcerting first-ever cab ride in an Uber cab. Read all that on pages 30 & 31.

One app company who are nothing but a friend of the taxi industry are cab:app. We look at their operation on pages 22 & 23 and find out how they're helping drivers pick up more work.

The Tories have had some bad press recently. In fact they may feel like bad press is following them around like a smell of stale bacon....

We bring you a story about how one cabbie cashed in as a young Tory Party member took a cab from Manchester to Liverpool.

Catch up on all the current news from around the world as well as in your area in this edition of the Taxi Magazine.

From all at the magazine have a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Safe travels!
Editor,
Stephen Young



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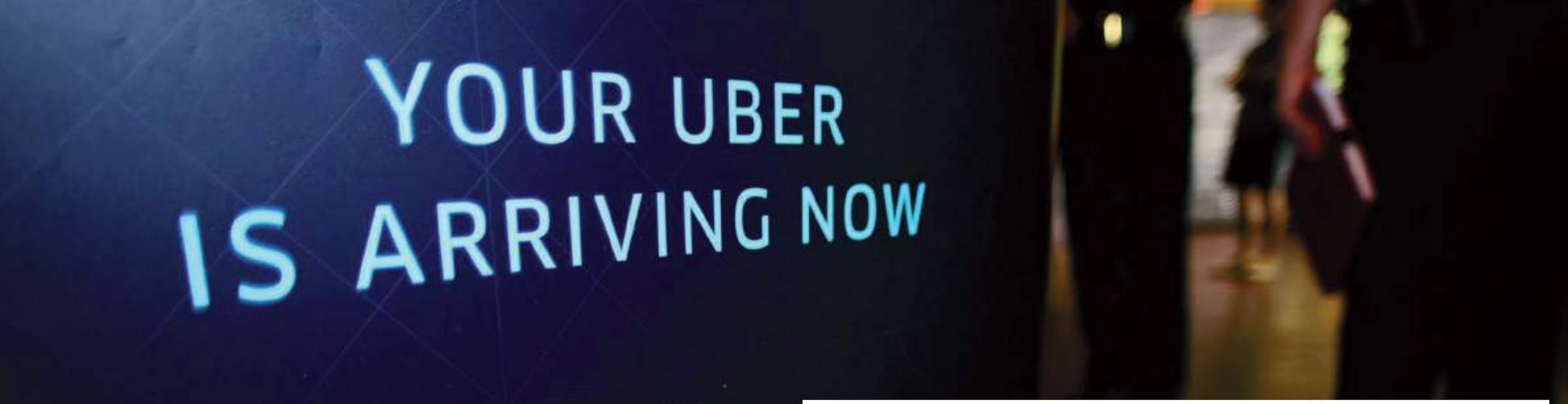


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UBER BOOSTED IN LONDON

App company earn a big victory

The taxi-booking service Uber has received a boost after the high court ruled that its app was legal in London!

Had it lost the case, the company would have been forced to change its service to comply with rules that protect black-cab drivers.

The transport regulator Transport for London (TfL) had brought the case after pressure from the cities' black cab and mini-cab drivers who claimed that the Uber app was being used as a taximeter. The taximeter is a privilege afforded only to black-cab drivers in return for the extensive training they undergo to learn London's streets.

But Lord Justice Ouseley ruled that Uber's mobile service did not constitute a taximeter. "A taximeter, for the purposes of section 11 of the Private Hire Vehicles Act 1998 does not include a device that receives GPS signals in the course of a journey, and forwards GPS data to a server located outside of the vehicle, which server calculates a fare that is partially or wholly determined by reference to distance travelled and time taken and sends the fare information back to the device," his written judgment said.

Ouseley said that while the smartphone using the driver's app may be essential to enable the calculation of fares, that did not make it a device "for" calculating fares, which would breach the taximeter prohibition.

Uber described the ruling as a victory for common sense and took aim at plans by TfL to impose new regulations on the company. "Now the high court has ruled in favour of new technology, we hope Transport for London will think again on their bureaucratic proposals for apps like Uber," said Jo Bertram, Uber's regional general manager for UK, Ireland and the Nordics.

"Compulsory five-minute waits and banning ride-sharing would be bad for riders and drivers. These plans make no sense. That's why 130,000 people have already signed our petiton against these proposals. We hope TfL will listen to Londoners and let Uber keep London moving."

About 1 million people have signed up to the service in London, where it has 18,000 drivers.."

TfL said its view had always been that smartphones were not taximeters, but there was significant public interest in establishing legal certainty.

The TfL consultation on taxi apps includes the proposal of an interval of at least five minutes between booking an Uber journey and the driver picking up the passenger, in an attempt to stop instantaneous bookings.

TfL said it would continue with its consultation, which aims to address the rapid growth in the number of private-hire cars on the roads. The number of drivers of such cars in London – including Uber vehicles and minicabs – is set to reach 128,000 over the next two years, twice the figure in 2010, causing concern about congestion, illegal parking and air quality.

Leon Daniels, TfL's managing director of surface transport, said: "With legal certainty established over taximeters, we will continue to work hard with all of our stakeholders to deliver taxi and private-hire services which meet the needs of modern London.

"Disruptive technology and new business models have radically changed the way that taxi and private-hire services operate and has widened customer choice. This is welcome. At the same time, as the regulator, we must ensure that regulatory requirements are met and are developed in a way that delivers the high standards customers deserve."

Daniels said TfL would have enforced any judgment against Uber but added: "It felt very unlikely to me that the judgment could not have been complied with. Either way, Uber would still be operating tomorrow."

He stressed TfL was "not against technology at all" and that the consultation proposals were put forward by all interested parties, from the public and trade, and many would be rejected. "There are no preconceptions, let's see what London says."

He said: "[Uber was subjected to] two of the biggest compliance checks I've ever mounted on poor record-keeping and insurance, and found virtually nothing. Uber has given us the fullest cooperation."

Aside from the consultation, Daniels said TfL would be acting to improve standards for all private-hire drivers, with a tougher language and geographical test before the end of 2015, and would also clamp down on Uber drivers waiting in residential streets near Heathrow.

The chief executive of Addison Lee, the biggest minicab firm in London, said the ruling was disappointing. "This is a sad day for London," Andy Boland said. "This judgment opens the door to a return to the bad old days of cabs charging what they like and the passenger not knowing what the fare is until it is too late."

The Licensed Taxi Drivers Association said it had lodged an immediate appeal against the ruling in the supreme court. However, TfL said it would not appeal.

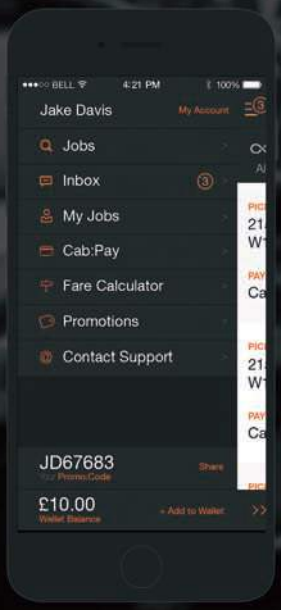
Steve McNamara, general secretary of the LTDA, said it was a "ludicrous decision", adding: "Does the Uber smartphone calculate the fare by a combination of time and distance? There can be only one answer, and any judgment that declares otherwise is flawed and wrong."

cab:app

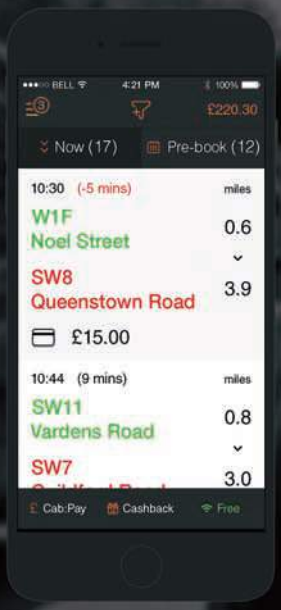
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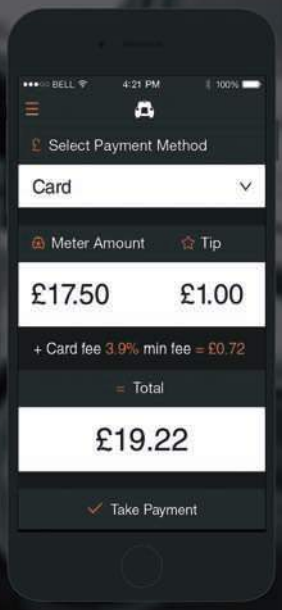
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Postgraduate student Melissa Layla Lewis, 22, was left for dead after being hit by a taxi.

CABBIE QUIZZED OVER HIT AND RUN

Student left fighting for life

A black cab driver was being quizzed last night over a hit and run smash which left a high-flying student fighting for her life.

Melissa Layla Lewis, a postgraduate student at Manchester University, was left for dead after being hit by a taxi in the horror city centre crash in September.

The talented 22-year-old had only just moved from London to start a master's degree in political economy with the aim of becoming a diplomat.

But she is now fighting to survive after being left with critical injuries.

Police trying to track the cab driver involved in the smash last night arrested a 55-year-old man at his home in south Manchester.

He was held on suspicion of causing serious injuries by dangerous driving and of failing to stop at the scene of a collision. He remained in police custody for questioning last night.

Speaking earlier in the week, police revealed it was not yet clear whether the driver was fully aware of the crash or the seriousness of Melissa's injuries.

Speaking from Melissa's hospital bedside, her mother Lynda Canning-Lewis described how a passing stranger's actions may have saved her daughter's life.

In a statement, she said: "Melissa had only just moved to Manchester to start her master's degree with her whole future ahead of her."The student was found with head injuries on Chester Street off Oxford Road, close to Manchester Metropolitan University buildings, at around 4.45am.

Her mum revealed a passer-by dialled 999 and didn't move Melissa, potentially saving her life.

"I'd like to thank the person who rang the ambulance and thank them for not moving Melissa, probably saving her life.

"I'd also like to thank all the staff at the hospital and the university for their help and concerns for a student who was about to start with them."

Officers have been trawling through hours of CCTV footage from cameras surrounding the scene.

Police said they still wanted to speak to anyone who had witnessed the collision.

Anybody with information can call GMP's serious collision investigation unit on:

0161 856 4741 or
Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

THE LONDON TAXI COMPANY PRESS RELEASE

The London Taxi Company unveils next generation zero emission capable Black Cab and announces further R&D investment in the UK



- **British cultural icon re-created for modern era**
- **London's next generation taxi revealed in the presence of Chinese President and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge**
- **Intention to invest additional £50m to expand new R&D facility in Ansty**

The London Taxi Company (LTC) today unveiled the new design for its next generation zero emission capable Black Cab, the TX5, at a VIP event celebrating creative industries and design held at Lancaster House, London, as part of the state visit to the UK by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The TX5 design concept captures the spirit of past generations of LTC models such as the Fairway series and draws on more than sixty years of style that has made the Black Cab an iconic sight on the streets of London. While maintaining recognisable key features, the new zero emission capable TX5 has been updated to reflect the needs of today's passengers and the move towards a low-carbon economy. The prototype of the new model was unveiled in the presence of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is on a four-day state visit to the UK, and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

In addition to a new light-weight aluminium body structure and composite panelling, the TX5 benefits from a range extended battery electric vehicle system ensuring no range anxiety and offering the reliability required by London's Black Cab drivers. Whilst TX5 retains the iconic London Taxi styling, all its 2,000 components have been designed from the ground up, incorporating the latest and best of technologies.

The TX5 has been designed with an overriding focus on the comfort of passengers and drivers. As well as accommodating six passenger seats and featuring improved driver leg room, the TX5 also heralds the return of the rear-hinged door to improve passenger access and, for the first time on a Black Cab, a panoramic glass roof. It has sufficient space for a forward facing wheelchair, helping to meet the travel needs of those with mobility issues. The TX5 is also equipped with WiFi internet capability and provides charging points for drivers and passengers in line with London's reputation as a hub for tech innovation and connectivity on-the-go.

LTC's parent company, the leading Chinese automotive manufacturer Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, also announced its intention to invest an additional £50 million in its state-of-the-art greenfield production facility in Ansty, Warwickshire, to turn the site into the group's UK R&D headquarters. This will bring total investment in the new site to £300 million.

The London Taxi Company confirms pricing for its cleanest TX4 ever

TX4 Euro 6

Following two years of development and an investment of more than £10 million, The London Taxi Company has confirmed that the Euro 6 compliant TX4 will go on sale from 1st September 2015. It will retail at £42,795 for the company's most popular model, the TX4 Elegance Automatic.

The price of the Euro 6 TX4 reflects the increased build costs involved in producing a vehicle that delivers superior environmental performance. The new model offers a NOx emissions reduction of two thirds compared to the current model through the introduction of a new 2.8 litre diesel VM engine.

Commercial director, Richard Gordon said:

"We have invested heavily to ensure the Euro 6 TX4 delivers much lower NOx emissions than its predecessor making it the cleanest cab we've ever produced. This comes at a time when we're also spending significantly to develop our Zero Emissions Capable taxi for 2017.

In developing the Euro 6 TX4 we have focused not only on meeting the latest regulatory requirements but also on delivering to our customers a taxi that will be smoother, quieter and more environmentally efficient than its predecessors."

To test drive the Euro 6 TX4 or for more information or a brochure contact us on ***0161 831 3434*** or email ***ukenquiries@london-taxis.co.uk.***

DRIVER DENIES BUYING INFO



Major drugs plot in court

A taxi driver has denied buying sensitive information from a Merseyside Police officer in a plot to burgle cannabis farms.

Prosecutors say Robert Gerrard Sloan, 44, was a "major" cocaine dealer who used information provided by ex-PC Barry Parkinson, 45, to keep "one step ahead".

They also allege that Parkinson passed Sloan the addresses of suspected cannabis farms as part of a conspiracy to break in and steal the drugs.

The pair deny conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to supply cannabis between January 1 and June 27, 2014.

Parkinson also denies a charge of misconduct in a public office.

He has admitted two further counts of this offence, which Sloan admits aiding and abetting.

Sloan told Liverpool Crown Court today he had no dealings with cannabis and had not "dealt cocaine by the kilo" as claimed by the prosecution.

But he admitted "I've been using steroids on and off all my life" and said he supplied them and growth hormone to friends and family.

Sloan said he once got a call about a £50 bag of cocaine while working as a taxi driver to pass onto a friend - but had nothing else to do with the drug.

The court heard the dad-of-six, who has three grandchildren, grew up in Liverpool but moved to London, where he worked as security for the former Harrods owner Mohamed Al-Fayed's family and the 80s pop duo Pepsi & Shirlie.

Under questioning by Charles Lander, defending, the ex-amateur boxer said he returned to Merseyside to work as a doorman and went into the debt recovery business.

Parkinson previously told the jury that Sloan revealed he wanted a better life and to work as a taxi driver instead.

He admitted creating a police report saying that Sloan had been arrested for money laundering, which he said was to help his friend who had people chasing him for debts.

However, Sloan denied having any debts to people outside the city or owing money to "big time drug people".

He said: "It was just to have any easy life and to get out of doing favours and jobs and the line of work I was in."

Sloan said there was no truth in a police intelligence report suggesting that a man called Stuart O'Leary was dealing cocaine on behalf of him from his taxi.

He said: "Barry has known me long enough. He would know I'm not selling kilos of cocaine."

Sloan said he and Parkinson - nicknamed "Barry the Bizzie" - would often text and call each other to chat about football and betting tips, but never discussed cannabis farms.

One of the misconduct charges Parkinson has admitted relates to providing Sloan with confidential information about a traveller called Bernie Campbell.

Sloan said this had nothing to do with drugs but was about him trying to find Mr Campbell to recover a £13,000 debt that he had owed his friend, who died of cancer.

He said he promised his dying pal that he would get the money for his family back from Mr Campbell.

Sloan told the jury: "I would never use the death of my mate to try and get me out of trouble, never."

He said that after originally promising to pay the cash back, Mr Campbell went to ground.

Sloan said co-accused David Gould "has done nothing wrong" and that if he had sent him addresses it was probably connected to trying to find Mr Campbell.

He said Gould had agreed to help look for him in places he frequented, such as houses, gyms and pubs, while he searched travellers sites across the North West.

Gould, 52, of Grange Avenue, West Derby , and Shaun Blackburn, 30, of Kenbury Road, Kirkby, deny conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to supply cannabis.

David Nuttall, 44, of Bonnington Close, St Helens, denies conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office.

He has already pleaded guilty to production of cannabis and abstracting electricity.

The case is ongoing.


Robert Gerrard Sloan leaves Liverpool Crown Court

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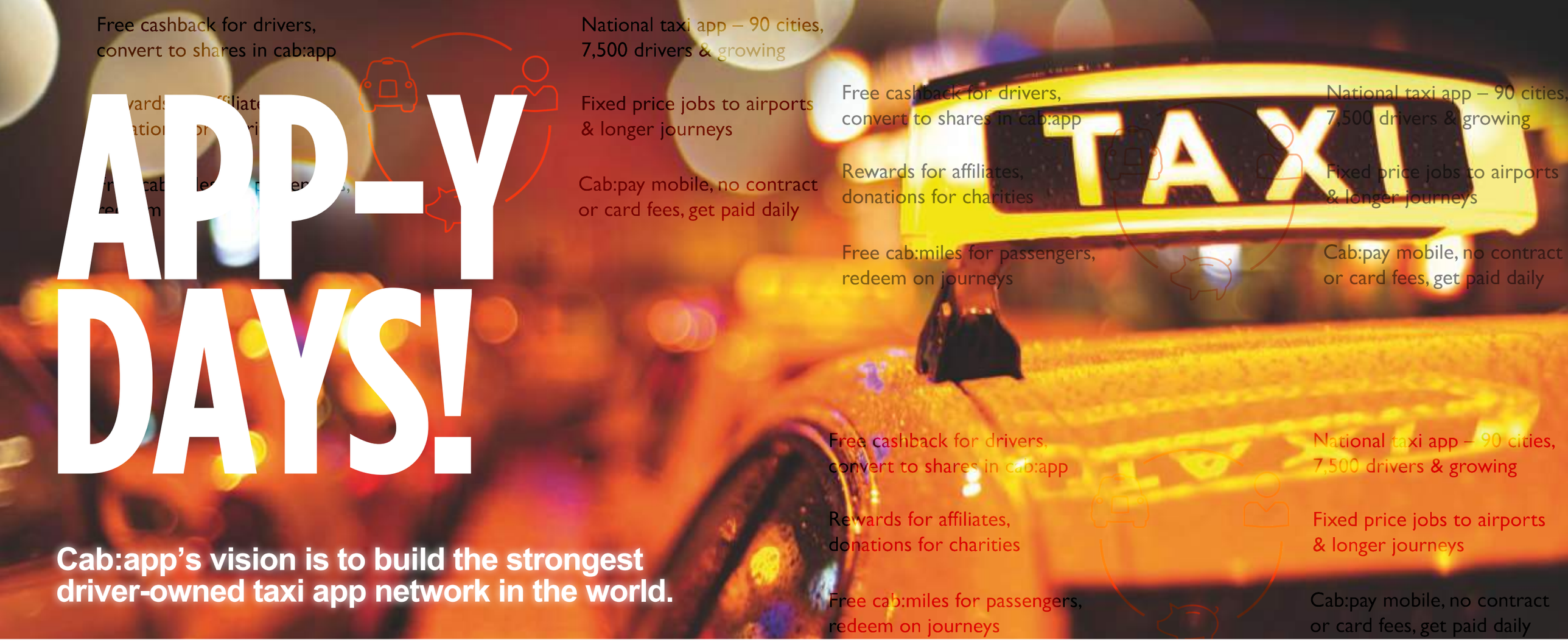
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Cab:app are ready to roll out all the goodies this Christmas!

This month they plan to raise additional funding to grow the business via a crowdfunding campaign, which will first be offered to drivers and the wider taxi trade.

We spoke to the company to get the lowdown: "Cab:app has been self funded and the business makes money due to its exceptionally low operating costs, as smart technology does most of the work.

"A common theme with most other taxi apps is they are owned by corporate investors, who have no long-term vested interest in our trade, and ultimately want to control drivers with a sole objective of making as much money as possible for investors and not the trade.

"We are regularly voted the world's best taxis, if the world's best drivers unite and use one app, we would have the strongest network of independent taxi drivers and co-owners the industry has ever seen, putting us firmly back in control of our own destiny using technology that 'works for us' not 'against us'.

"Every driver can be a part owner of cab:app (for free) through our cashback scheme

Cab:app will redistribute a percentage of its revenue back to drivers (via the app) with cashback for every job accepted, credit card processed and from passenger journeys where drivers have introduced a passenger using the driver unique promo code.

"Drivers will see their cashback total grow (on the app dashboard) and at the end of each year they can take the free cash or convert it into cab:app shares. To date over 3,000 drivers have already earned cashback via the new app so will have the opportunity to become shareholders.

We are committed to keeping cab:app in the hands of the trade, and in December we plan to raise additional funding to grow the business via a crowdfunding campaign, which will first be offered to drivers and the wider taxi trade.

"Cab:app has partnered and shares office space with Pocket App the UK's largest independent app developers, giving us the support to grow and the ability to access new ideas and innovations in mobile technology. We also have our own in-house team of technology developers (across all major platforms), so we can innovate at a much faster pace.

"The launch of the new driver app, passenger app, website and mobile payments system is just the start as we have many new features/services to be released over the coming months, including going home jobs, corporate account booking engine, Apple Pay.

Lowest cost jobs for drivers

"Cab:app offers drivers the option of instant hail, pre-book and fixed price jobs for any journey over 8 miles to every airport and beyond. All jobs are 'pay as you go' charged at a flat rate e.g. 50p in Liverpool and Manchester for journeys under 8 miles and £1 for any jobs over 8 miles. Drivers will see the job details, including pick up, drop off (compulsory for pre-books) and whether it's on the meter or a fixed price (£ displayed) so drivers will decide if the job works for them before accepting or rejecting it.

"As part of this release cab:app will offer drivers the latest mobile chip/pin solution working in partnership with Barclaycard. The Bluetooth device can be handheld or mounted, and will be enabled to accept contactless payments up to £30 (from January).

"Passengers will continue to pay the 3.9% card fees and drivers will now get paid 5 days a week, providing the lowest cost and fastest payment option for drivers. There's no contract and no ongoing % transaction fee levied against drivers, there'll be a one off cost for the new contactless chip/pin device (£116 +VAT / P&P), the cost of which will easily be recovered from driver cashback earned from transaction volumes 'we pay you'. Other payment options include PayPal with Pingit and Apple Pay coming soon to maximise customer choice.

Passenger numbers will grow if we offer one national taxi app

"There are approximately 75,000 Hackney drivers across the country and over 15,000 licensed taxi drivers in Ireland. Cab:app has already connected 90 towns and cities with one app. This network now extends from Inverness in the north of Scotland down to Plymouth in the South, Norwich in the East and Galway in the West of Ireland, encompassing all major towns and cities in between including Liverpool and Manchester.

"Passengers now have the convenience of booking and paying for a licensed taxi anytime, anyplace, anywhere from one nationwide app owned and controlled by independent taxi drivers.

"We have a number of strategic PR and marketing initiatives already planned to help increase awareness of cab:app to offer existing taxi users one booking app and also to open up new markets. This will be ongoing as cab:app commits to re-investing a percentage of revenue back into promoting the trade.

"Initiatives include a cab:miles rewards/loyalty programme which comes directly from cab:app's revenue, and the driver cashback scheme which offers drivers a lifetime revenue share from passenger journeys where a driver has introduced the passenger using the driver unique promo code.

"If 9,100 drivers advertised one app in their cab it would reach approximately 40 million passengers a year, generating a large financial contribution to the driver cashback and share ownership scheme."

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Cash Price	Good Credit	Bad Credit	Ex-Fleet
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2013 Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 2.0 CDTi SRI

19,043 Miles
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Manufacturer Warranty
Average MPG 54.3

Cash Price	Good Credit	Bad Credit	Ex-Fleet
£13,495	£59.65 PER WEEK	Please Call	Full Service History One Previous Owner

2012 Ford Mondeo Zetec 2.0 Business Ed. Estate



61,642 Miles
Air Con • Alloy Wheels
Navigation System
Electric Windows
Bluetooth
Average MPG 61.4

Cash Price	Good Credit	Bad Credit	Ex-Fleet
£9,995	£38.91 PER WEEK	Please Call	Full Service History One Previous Owner



2012 Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCI Zetec 7 Seats

14,217 Miles
Alloy Wheels • Air Con
Electric Windows
Bluetooth
Parking Assistance
Average MPG 54.3

Cash Price	Good Credit	Bad Credit	Ex-Fleet
£14,595	£59.47 PER WEEK	Please Call	Full Service History One Previous Owner

2012 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 TDI SE



21,884 Miles
Alloy Wheels
Air Con • 7 Seats
Parking Sensors
Manufacturer Warranty
Average MPG 61.4

Cash Price	Good Credit	Bad Credit	Ex-Fleet
£12,995	£57.00 PER WEEK	Please Call	Full Service History One Previous Owner



2014 Ford Tourneo Custom 9 Seater

7,500 Miles
Air Con • Alloy Wheels
Cruise Control
Bluetooth
Average MPG 43.4

Cash Price	Good Credit	Bad Credit	Ex-Fleet
£19,995 INC VAT	£81.70 PER WEEK	Please Call	Full Service History One Previous Owner

2012 Renault Trafic 2.0 DCI LWB 9 Seater



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Data Radio are the only call you need to make for your 2 way radios on Merseyside. *Taxi Magazine* recently spoke to the company to hear what they have to offer drivers from Bootle to Huyton





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"We are also an OFCOM licensed PBR supplier of intrinsically safe ATEX approved radio systems.

"We are experts on the range of products and accessories that we sell, including Entel 2 way radios, and can assist you in finding the perfect solution for you or your business. We believe our experience helps us to provide excellent advice and service to our customers.

"Our 2 way radios are available to hire for large events such as festivals or concerts. Our radio hire services are also available for same day local services.

"We have been providing products to clients around the UK since 1991 and take pride in being able to provide a great, quick service with our next day delivery."

Data Radio Ltd was established in 1991 and are a dynamic and enthusiastic company and, as FITAS approved engineers, often partner larger companies who require flexible skilled installation staff.

As well as radio communications Data Radio are main dealers for Cygnus Automotive and supply & install a wide range of vehicle telematics, tracking devices and mobile CCTV including MI-WITNESS & SMART WITNESS.

They have undertaken large projects including the supply & installation of a 250 vehicle mpt1327 wide area system for a utility company & the installation of over 400 mobile data terminals into Computer Cab Liverpool completed in a 2 week period.

They are an approved supplier to schools & councils and through their website have sold radio communications equipment all over the globe. They are also approved suppliers of Entel & Icom radio-communications equipment & specialize in supplying equipment into harsh environments.

THE REAL UBER EXPERIENCE

This magazine Editor's first and only trip left a lot to be desired



Uber's map of Dallas, Texas.

I recently made a trip to the United States where I found myself in a booked taxi with friends.

Nothing unusual I hear you say... but this was a first.

The cab was booked by one of our party and I was unaware - until the cab arrived - that I was about to sit in my first Uber cab.

Uber has been the subject of massive worldwide controversy since its inception, sparking protests, finding cases in court, and almost universally coming under fire from taxi drivers.

As a matter of principal, I had avoided using Uber on this side of the Atlantic.

Here I was in Dallas, Texas about to break a vow to myself.

A fuss I was not prepared to make though and I decided to take in the Uber experience as an unbiased journalist - albeit with everything I had heard and written about the company whizzing around in my nut as I sat in the back seat of the beast.

First off; the driver met us outside our hotel. He got out of the cab, placed our belongings in the boot and then took off with us on board.

Hilarity soon ensued as the driver fielded regular conversation in a language that was all his own.

Not English, not Spanish, not anything...

We had guessed maybe it was Bayou English, but he had insisted he was from Dallas. Strange indeed.

Any question or prompt for conversation from us was met with a couple of sentences of indistinguishable babble from our bearded friend.

One valuable nugget of info was provided to us though via their app; his name.

I was surrounded by local Texans, whose laughter put me at ease for sure. But I can tell you that as a tourist, there is nothing more disconcerting than being mislead in a cab in a foreign country, and trust me, everybody knows when this becomes the case. My spidey sense was tingling.

Had I happened to be alone in this cab I would have had myself convinced of one of the following things: A; I was being ripped off. B; I was in a cab with a driver who was not verified through the proper channels. C; Maybe this was just how taxis operated in this particular country/state/region, and next time I would take the bus.

Of course, many times we do find ourselves in a foreign country with a driver who has little or no English. This is to be expected.

When that happens in an English-speaking country with a driver who insists he is a local and is blatantly lying; well, lets just say it says volumes about the company that would employ this guy.

Why lie is the question?

Why, despite our amusement, continue the charade?

'Why not?' is the answer.

Uber have stated their case to me in person in the past.

"No drivers go unchecked..." etc. This is untrue, as in the case of Uber X - a sector of the company that operates as a private hire vehicle like a limo - and in my first only Uber experience I found myself questioning the company all over again. This time as a customer.

Yet the company continues to grow, for the most part, unchecked.

So when the next Uber PR campaign kicks off, here's one question for starters; how do people like Driver X come to work for the company?

I look forward to hearing from the spin doctors again.

But be warned guys, bring your A game next time. This time I had the Uber experience for myself, and the company was left wanting.

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Look, I have a problem, and I know complete camera system is the right solution. Can you make the problem go away and just do everything for us?
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WORLDWIDE REPORT

TAXI NEWS ROUND-UP FROM AROUND THE GLOBE.



DEHLI

An Indian court has sentenced an Uber taxi driver to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of raping a female passenger last year in Delhi.

Shiv Kumar Yadav was also convicted of criminal intimidation and kidnapping.

The 26-year-old woman was taken to a secluded area and raped after booking a journey home with Uber in December.

Delhi later banned Uber and several other web-based taxi firms, accusing them of failing to carry out adequate driver checks.

The company apologised for the incident at the time and acknowledged that it "must do better".

The woman had also filed a lawsuit against the service in a US court, which was later settled out of court.

The issue of sexual assault has been high on the agenda in India since a 23-year-old student was gang-raped and murdered on a bus in Delhi in December 2012.

The case prompted global outrage and a tightening of laws on sexual violence.

Correspondents say tougher laws have failed to bring down the number of rape cases and a series of high-profile crimes have taken place since then.

Last month there was outrage in the capital after two children were raped on the same day.

A week before that, a child was raped and slashed with a sharp object, and found unconscious near a railway track.

CHICAGO

Taxi-industry lawyers aiming to slow down Uber have won a victory in Chicago that could boost New York City's yellow-cab interests in their fight for survival.

Just weeks after a lawsuit to check Uber's growth in New York City was struck down by a state court, a federal judge in the Windy City has allowed most of a taxi industry lawsuit there to proceed.

The Chicago case asserts that it is unfair for that city to impose stricter regulations on medallion cabs than on other for-hire vehicles such as those hailed with Uber's popular e-hail app.

New York taxi interests say the case could have ramifications here, especially regarding a wheelchair rule for yellow cabs that doesn't apply to livery or black cars. Beginning Jan. 1, half of New York's yellow cabs must be wheelchair-accessible, a mandate that does not apply to livery and black cars.

"We're certainly looking at it," said Michael Woloz, a key lobbyist for the taxi industry here. "It's an important lawsuit."

CHINA

China's largest ride-hailing company Didi Kuaidi can no longer be pigeonholed as a taxi app as demand for its private-car rides now dwarfs its other services while it keeps broadening its portfolio of services, according to an executive at the company.

"[Didi]… is no longer a taxi app," Zhu, vice-president of strategy at Didi Kuaidi, said at the TechCrunch Beijing conference.

"Our biggest business is now private cars," he said, adding that the company delivers 7 million rides a day, 4 million of which are private-car rides compared to just 2 million taxi journeys.

Moreover, Didi has moved into the social space by launching a new service called Hitch, which targets white-collars. Drivers who register with Hitch input their destination and get paired with a passenger who will be picked up along the way - allowing them to network.

TORONTO

The base fare for taxis dropped by $1 in Toronto, Canada last month — from $4.25 a ride to $3.25, a rate reduction approved by their city council.

Taxi cab drivers lined Broaview Ave. waiting for a local taxi meter company to recalibrate their equipment while city inspectors supervised the work. The city is also issued 100 new cab licences to drivers on a waiting list.

What individual cabbies think of the new fares?

"This is ridiculous," said Ilias Christofilopoulos, 61, a cabbie for 37 years. "I come out yesterday, Saturday, and I made $25. I blame the mayor — John Tory. We lost the business. Uber has no insurance, no licence, they don't pay taxes. I don't think we can survive."

What the iTaxiworkers association thinks.

"This decrease is going to make worse conditions for cab drivers by just dropping $1," said president Sajid Mughal. "It won't be decreasing insurance or plate lease prices, but no one else will bear the cost except the cab drivers. I don't see us being more competitive with Uber, it may happen, but I don't see any benefit yet."

What uber thinks:

"Lower fares are good news for consumers," said Uber Canada in a statement. "We believe that Torontonians deserve a safe, reliable and affordable ride in our city and that taxi and ridesharing can complement each other to better serve rider and driver needs in Toronto."

NEW YORK

Like any empire, Uber has been fighting battles on many fronts. In New York, that battle was against Mayor Bill de Blasio who sought to limit the number of new Uber drivers that could be added in the city. (Uber eventually won that fight)

The reason for de Blasio's intent to limit Uber? Traffic congestion.

But new data released suggests that, at least in terms of pickups (and not ride duration, route, etc.), Uber is simply replacing taxis in Manhattan's most congested areas rather than adding to the number of pickups originating there.

According to the figures, which came from two separate Freedom of Information Act requests, the number of total pickups in New York City from the periods ranging April to June in 2014 went from approximately 48 million to 51 million. That's a net increase of 3 million pickups by yellow taxis, green taxis (which are not allowed to pick up passengers in the majority of Manhattan) and Uber cars comprehensively.

However, in central and lower Manhattan (which is where traffic congestion is worst and de Blasio focused his efforts against Uber), Uber increased pickups year over year by 3.82 million, while taxis decreased pickups by around 3.83 million.







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TORY TAKES £300 TAXI

Young Conservative in trip from Manchester to London

A young Tory got so drunk at the Conservative party conference in Manchester that he took a £300 Uber cab back to London.

The campaigns officer was among many in the party enjoying the boozy gatherings which come after a day of speeches and political meetings.

But he was shocked to wake up back at his home in London this morning and checked his phone to see he'd paid £311 for a four-hour overnight taxi.

He wrote on Facebook: 'Went out in Manchester, woke up in London. Checked my emails to see a £311 Uber journey. Must have been an interesting night.'

The post received a warm response from friends, who branded him a 'legend', 'a lad' and a 'nutter'.

After one friend said he could have flown to the Middle East for the same money, he replied: 'I wish I had got a flight to Dubai! The bank has been broken by this - may be eating beans for the next year at uni lol.'

The student, who recently worked as a Campaign Manager for a Conservative MP, said he must have plugged his home address into the minicab app by mistake.

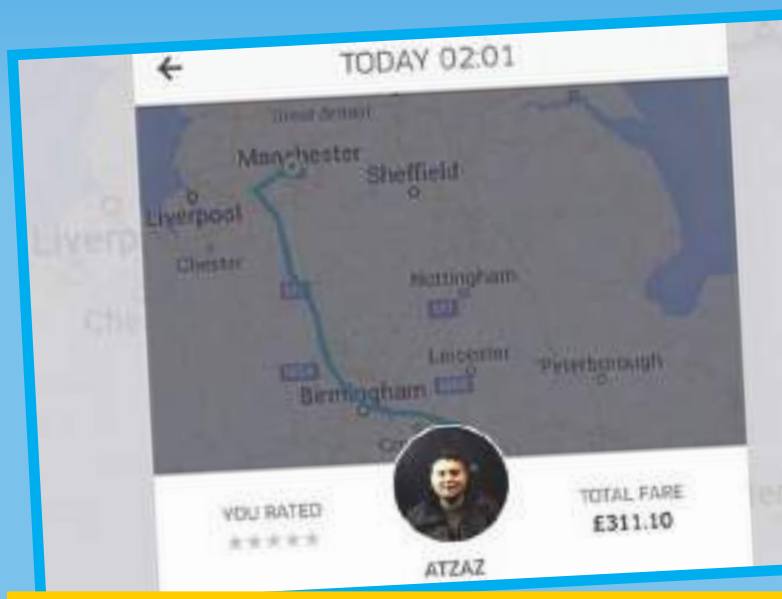
He told Buzzfeed: 'You know what a drunken night out is like. I'm 19 years old and intend to enjoy my youth.'

The teenager, who also admitted his actions were 'stupid', said he is unable to afford the trip back to Manchester for the rest of the party conference.

Ironically, the student, a member of an organisation called Conservative Future, once gave a speech about the spiralling cost of transport for young people.

He was not alone in enjoying the after-parties at the conference. Photos from the outside the venue show a number of delegates staggering down the streets and struggling to stay upright.

Champagne was banned at the party conference during the economic crisis as party leaders towed the 'All In This Together' slogan, but the ban has been lifted this year following the party's election win.



Went out in Manchester, woke up in London. Checked my emails to see a £311 Uber journey. Must have been an interesting night



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Knock Knock



A guy walks into a bar with his pet monkey. He orders a drink, and while he's drinking, the monkey jumps all over the place, eating everything behind the bar. Then the monkey jumps on to the pool table and swallows a billiard ball.

The bartender screams at the guy, "Your monkey just ate the cue ball off my pool table -- whole!"

"Sorry," replied the guy. "He eats everything in sight, the little bastard. I'll pay for everything."

The man finishes his drink, pays and leaves.

Two weeks later, he's in the bar with his pet monkey, again. He orders a drink, and the monkey starts running around the bar. The monkey finds a cherry on the bar. He grabs it, sticks it up his ass, pulls it out and eats it.

The bartender is disgusted. "Did you see what your monkey did now?" he asks.

"Yeah," replies the guy. "He still eats everything in sight, but ever since he swallowed that cue ball, he measures stuff first."

Harry, Bill and Steve are sitting at the corner bar, when Ted walks in looking distressed.
"Ted, you look awful. What's wrong?" Harry asks.
Ted says, "Last night I got really drunk and I was abducted by an alien."
Everyone is shocked. Bill asks, "What did the alien do to you?"
"All I remember is being anally probed," Ted says.
Everyone is horrified. "I heard that they'll do that!" Steve says. "What did the alien look like?"
Ted responds, "Carl."

A blonde complains to a brunette friend that her Internet is down.
The brunette friend offers to let the blonde check her e-mail at her house.
"That's OK," says the blonde. "Why don't you check it and forward me what I got?"

Little Johnny's father asks him if he knows about the birds and the bees.

"I don't want to know!" Little Johnny says, bursting into tears.

Confused, his father asks what's wrong.

"Oh, Dad," Little Johnny sobs, "first, there was no Santa Claus, then no Easter Bunny, and finally, no Tooth Fairy. If you're about to tell me that grownups don't really have sex, I've got nothing left to believe in."

A farmer is in the middle of plowing his field when his tractor runs out of gas. He needs to get back to the farm, but it's too far for him and his dog, Old Joe, to walk.

He wanders out to the road and flags down a sports car.

The driver says, "I'll give you a ride, but that dog can't get in my car."

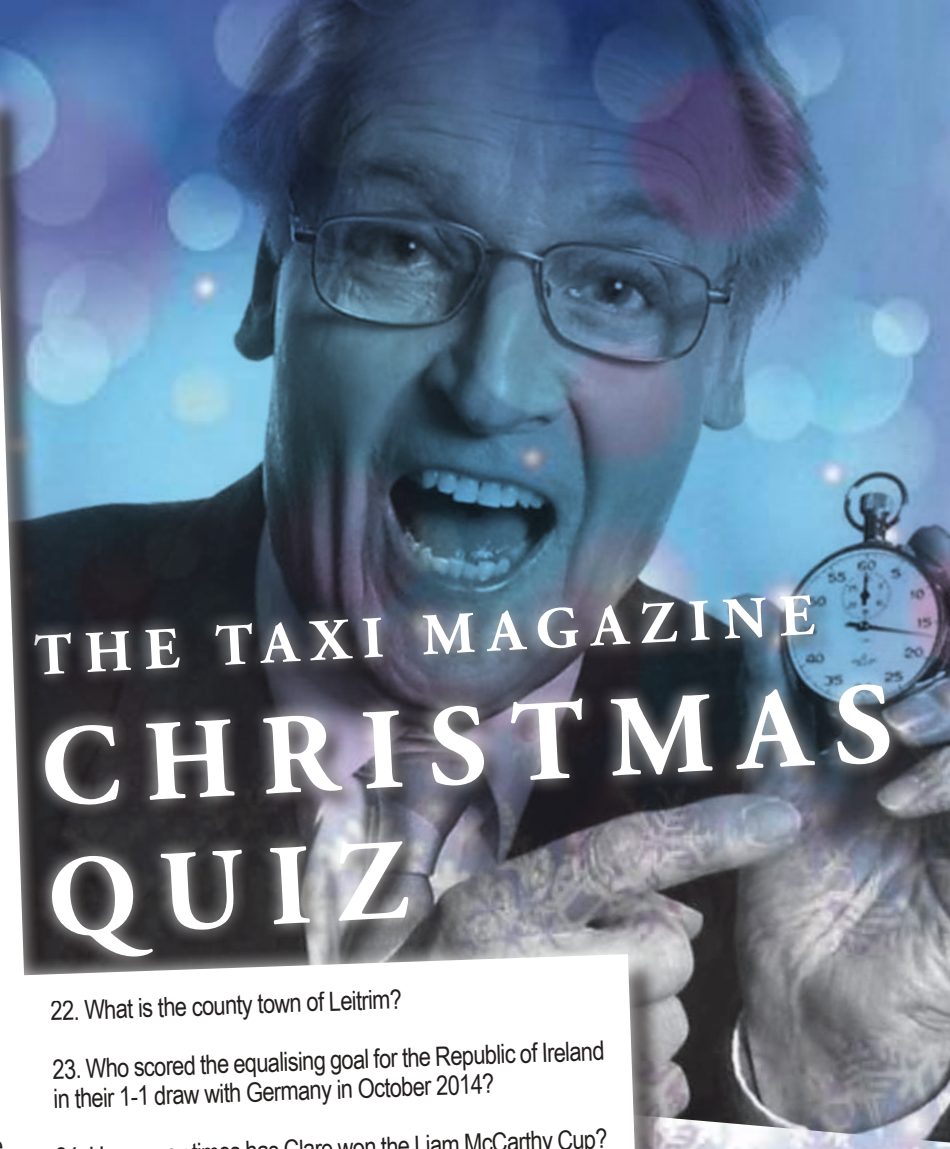
The farmer says, "Don't worry. Old Joe will keep up."

The driver decides to show off and open up the engine for max speed. Just as he's going into fifth gear, he looks out the window and sees Old Joe right beside him. In amazement, he slams on the brakes and Old Joe comes to a halt.

The driver jumps out, exclaiming, "He's the most incredible dog I've ever seen! Is there something special about that collar he's wearing?"

The farmer shakes his head and says, "That's not a collar. That's his a**hole. He's not used to stopping that fast."

One day a man goes to a pet shop to buy a parrot. The assistant takes the man to the parrot section and asks the man to choose one. The man asks, "How much is the yellow one?" The assistant says, "$2000." The man is shocked and asks the assistant why it's so expensive. The assistant explains, "This parrot is a very special one. He knows typewriting and can type really fast."
"What about the green one?" the man asks.
The assistant says, "He costs $5000 because he knows typewriting and can answer incoming telephone calls and takes notes."
"What about the red one?" the man asks.
The assistant says, "That one's $10,000."
The man says, "What does HE do?"
The assistant says, "I don't know, but the other two call him boss."



THE TAXI MAGAZINE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

QUESTIONS

1. In 2001, Irish troops vacated Camp Shamrock, ending more than two decades of peacekeeping duty in which country?

2. The lead singer of which band wrote the opening theme tune to Channel 4 comedy series, Father Ted?

3. Who became Northern Ireland's first Prime Minister in 1921?

4. Tattoo, Calling Card and Wheels Within Wheels are all albums by which Irish musician?

5. If the colour of the carpet in the Dáil Chamber is blue, what colour are the carpets in Seanad Éireann?

6. Which horse trained by Jim Dreaper won the Irish Grand National in 1975, 1976 and 1978?

7. Which late broadcaster and astronomer was once curator of Armagh Observatory?

8. Who took over from Gay Byrne as Chair of the Road Safety Authority in 2014?

9. In which decade was a proposal for the penalty kick accepted by the Football Association (FA)? The proposal was the brainchild of Armagh's William McCrum and was championed by his colleague in the FAI, Jack Reid.

10. How many presenters of the Rose of Tralee have there been?

11. Who from 1959 to 1977 was the first presenter of the Rose of Tralee?

12. Mullagh, Feakle, Carron and Labasheeda are all villages in which Irish county?

13. What was the final score in Munster's famous 1978 win over the All Blacks?

14. Former US President Bill Clinton travelled to which Northern Irish town in 2002 to open a £3m peace centre named after him?

15. In what year did the last outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease occur on the island of Ireland?

16. Priest and established palaeographer, Leonard Boyle was a native of which Irish County?

17. Name the Mayor of Limerick City who was shot at his home by disguised members of the Black and Tans in 1921.

18. Which former Sunday Tribune editor replaced Eamon Dunphy as presenter of Today FM's The Last Word show in 2002?

19. Born in 1957, athlete John Treacy is a native of which Irish county?

20. In which year did George Bernard Shaw die?

21. In Northern Ireland's Parliament at Stormont, what does MLA stand for?

22. What is the county town of Leitrim?

23. Who scored the equalising goal for the Republic of Ireland in their 1-1 draw with Germany in October 2014?

24. How many times has Clare won the Liam McCarthy Cup?

25. Who were the first winners of Liam McCarthy Cup?

26. Irish republican and socialist leader, James Connolly was born in which city?

27. What was the title of U2's first album?

28. Who is the Irish Government Chief Whip (as of November 2014)?

29. Which future Ireland and Lions rugby captain was born in Toomebridge, Co. Antrim in 1940?

30. While Father Ted Crilly lived on Craggy Island, what island did Father Dick Byrne live on?

ANSWERS

1. Lebanon
2. The Divine Comedy (lead singer Neil Hannon wrote the theme)
3. James Craig
4. Rory Gallagher
5. Blue
6. Brown Lad
7. Sir Patrick Moore
8. Liz O'Donnell
9. 1890s (1891 was the exact year)
10. 7 (Kevin Hilton, Gay Byrne, Derek Davis, Marty Whelan, Ryan Tubridy, Ray D'Arcy, Daithí Ó Sé)
11. Kevin Hilton
12. Clare
13. 12-0
14. Enniskillen
15. 2001
16. Donegal
17. George Clancy
18. Matt Cooper
19. Waterford (born in Villerstown)
20. 1950
21. Members of the Legislative Assembly
22. Carrick-on-Shannon
23. John O'Shea
24. 3 (Clare have won 4 All Ireland titles. However, the 1914 win was before the Liam McCarthy Cup's introduction)
25. Limerick (1921)
26. Edinburgh
27. Boy
28. Paul Kehoe
29. Willie John McBride
30. Rugged Island



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