

UNITED TRADE ACTION GROUP (UTAG) LEGAL ACTION

The United Trade Action Group (UTAG) has been created specifically in order to bring the legal action as set-out below on behalf of a united taxi trade. UTAG is a non-political collaboration open to all of the taxi trade fraternity. This legal action is dedicated to protect our Trade against current and future threats to our exclusive and historical right.

Whilst the initial instruction to Legal Council has been given by UCG, this is NOT a UCG action, it is a unified trade action. The action already has significant support and the intention is now to extend invitations to Badge holders and Stakeholders alike; those whose business interests are intrinsically linked to the taxi trade.

Other similar actions are exclusively seeking damages but our action goes much further. This action will seek more than damages for any previous loss. It will seek to protect our trade from current and future threats to our exclusive right to ply for hire in London and which has been held for 360 years.

The UTAG legal action will be against:

- *Westminster Magistrates and Judicially Review the decision to grant a license to Uber on the basis of conflict of interest and flawed reasoning.*
- *Transport for London under multiple causes of action including its failure to regulate the statutory regime.*
- *Uber under multiple causes of action including economic torts and the interference of your exclusive right to ply for hire.*

Further details see attached doc. - Ian Gregory -ABZED <https://abzed.com>

BACKGROUND & MISSION

Whilst many members of the taxi community hold strong views on who is ultimately responsible for the failures, UTAG has removed the need to speculate by gaining a legal opinion from a pre-eminent commercial QC to clearly understand and define who has caused harm to the trade, taking action to preserve one of the oldest and most respected institutions in the world.

With the efforts of the UCG and five taxi business stakeholders who worked collaboratively to finance the original advice, we now find ourselves in possession of the legal opinion that confirms that there are prosecutable actions, with a good chance of success. It feels good to know that as a trade we are correct. We now need to be vindicated by gaining a verdict.

For our action to be successful, we need UNIFIED TRADE ACTION to see the legal process through. Unity must be absolute. Just as the actions of Westminster, TFL and Uber are attacks on all of us, the fight back must be from an army that is not divided or fractured. We have a duty to protect the future of the Black Taxi Trade as without such action our future is very grim. Today we are opening UTAG up to the taxi trade and asking for financial support as well as to wholeheartedly get behind this action.

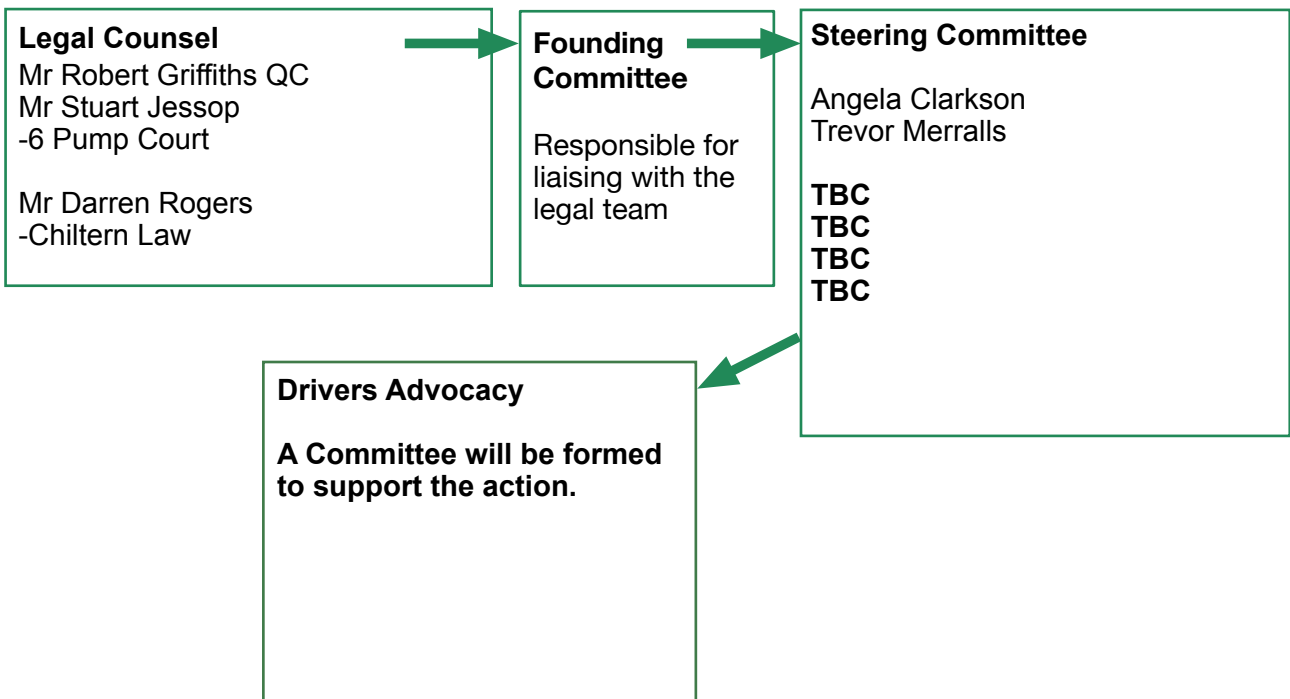
We want future generations to know that what we do now, today, will change the course of history. We must fight back as one unified entity to defend our Trade and more importantly secure our right to exist now and the many years to come. We have a proud history and we must ensure that the iconic taxi is part of London's future.

UNITED TRADE ACTION GROUP (UTAG) MISSION STATEMENT

UTAG will be transparent and inclusive-to-all. UTAG need to raise substantial funds to pay for this legal action. This fund shall be raised from both the taxi driving community and stakeholders. The funds will be managed and audited by a professional accountant and will require co-signatures to release funds to the legal team.

UTAG will create two further committees; the **Steering Committee**, which will be supporting the legal team of Robert Griffith QC and his team, as well as the **Drivers Advocacy Committee**, drivers, who are respected, have trade experience, extensive reach, media connections and communication skills. This group will be given regular updates on the action and will ensure that any questions from the wider driver community is asked and answered to the best of their ability. The Advocacy Committee will be tasked with promoting this action positively helping to maintain unity.

Support from the Taxi business community: Whilst we rely on stakeholders for financial support and invaluable commercial advice and guidance, UTAG committees will be solely comprised of Taxi Drivers.



UNITED TRADE ACTION GROUP (UTAG)

Our legal opinion has been paid for with the generosity of five business stakeholders and the UCG. The commercial stakeholders will be vital for further financial support and we already have undertakings from other stakeholders who will be donating to the legal fund. Our Founding Stakeholders will remain anonymous unless they choose to announce themselves.

We, the taxi driving community, need to raise substantial funds to see these actions through. We foresee the costs as being £1.5 million. With VAT and further contingency funds or insurance we would like to raise a greater sum, £1.5 million is the minimum requirements

To ensure that UTAG has the financial resources to see the legal actions through and after extensive considerations we have concluded that £250.00 per driver is required.

The money is not required immediately and can be made in smaller regular payments if preferred:

1. One-off payment of £250.00
2. Bi annual payment of £125.00
3. £10 per week for 25 weeks
4. £5 per week for 50 weeks

The UCG believe that at least 7000 drivers will contribute to the fund.

UTAG are in the process of setting up the website with a link to the donations page. If a driver wishes to pay by cheque or cash, details will also be given.

For further information now please contact:

info@unitedtradeactiongroup.com

UNITED TRADE ACTION GROUP (UTAG) AGAINST TFL AND UBER

UCG with support from a key group of taxi trade Stakeholders has recently instructed, Senior Commercial QC, to provide opinion on taking legal action against Transport for London, Westminster Magistrates Court and Uber.

You are being asked to support our action by way of financial contribution to retain the exclusive rights earned by completing the Knowledge of London. Our intention is to redress the failures of our regulator, Transport for London, and hold those to account that have caused harm to the London taxi trade.

The UTAG will take action:

against Westminster Magistrates and Judicially Review the decision to grant a license to Uber on the basis of conflict of interest and flawed reasoning.

against Transport for London under multiple causes of action including its failure to regulate the statutory regime.

against Uber under multiple causes of action including economic torts and the interference of your exclusive right to ply for hire.

It has long been known by members of the taxi trade that Uber operates a model which is identical to hailing and therefore infringes London taxi drivers' exclusive right to ply for hire. Our legal action will seek to address that injustice.

"This is an unprecedented legal challenge against Uber, Transport for London and Westminster Magistrates Court. It will shock many how Uber operate and are allowed to operate with sheer complacency and under the watchful blindness of the regulatory body there to protect" - **Robert Griffiths QC, Stuart Jessop.**

This action will forcefully pursue the argument that TfL knew or ought to have known that Uber is not and has never been a fit and proper person to hold an Operators' License. One of the many reasons why it will be argued that Uber is not a fit and proper person includes issues relating to its corporate structure and fiscal operations.

This is a concerted, comprehensive and unprecedented action against key parties including our regulatory body and will seek to bring each and all parties to account for their part in the damage caused to our 360-year-old trade.

Other similar actions are exclusively seeking damages, which we support, but this action will seek more than damages for any previous loss. It will seek to protect our exclusive right to ply for hire and ensure that PHV drivers and London Taxi drivers compete fairly. It will seek to protect our trade from current and further threats to its exclusive right to ply for hire and ensure that the distinct Two-Tier System is restored and not eroded.

It is the considered opinion of Robert Griffiths QC, Mr Stuart Jessop (6 Pump Court) and Mr Darren Rogers (Chiltern Law) that these series of actions have a very good chance of success. The trade will understand that disclosure of our causes of action are confidential and sensitive, but senior members of the UCG and other prominent taxi Stakeholders, fully support and can attest to the merits of this action.

Although the initial instructions have been given by UCG, this is not a UCG action, it is designed to be a unified trade action, with cross-party support.

UTAG is currently made up from a wider group of taxis Stakeholders and committee members of the UCG. However, we invite and urge all drivers and stakeholders to financially support us in this action, as we believe that only legal action is going to force TfL to act as the regulator, maintain our rights, and give us the best chance of securing our futures.

You are aware that if we do not take this action, now, our future shall remain tenuous and we must act in unison to protect it.

UTAG asks all London taxi drivers and stakeholders to endorse these actions and in due course, donate as much as they can to our Crowdfunding campaign to support this historic legal challenge. More details regarding projected costs and next steps will follow in the coming weeks.

UTAG and its legal team will shortly be inviting drivers', all Orgs and more stakeholders to a series of Q&A sessions, where questions shall be taken regarding the legal action.

PRESS OFFICER: (IAN GREGORY - ABZED)