

Fact sheet 1



Taxi history highlights

- 1588 First recorded use of hackney coaches carrying fare paying passengers in London
- 1694 An Act of Parliament set up the first licensing system for regulating and licensing hackney coaches
- 1834 The Hansom cab first introduced in London
- 1838 Hackney carriage drivers licensed for the first time
- 1850 The Public Carriage Office opened
- 1897 The first horseless cab was electric. The Bersey 'Humming Bird' was licensed on 5th November
- 1903 The first petrol driven motor cab, a Prunel, was licensed on 11th December
- 1946 Last horse drawn cab licensed on 2nd September, the licence being surrendered on 3rd April 1947
- 1966 The Public Carriage Office moved from 109 Lambeth Road to Penton Street
- 2000 The Public Carriage Office transferred from the Metropolitan Police Service to Transport for London part of the Greater London Authority on 3rd July