

AskPOB

AskPOB Taxi Driver Consultation

Camden Council Traffic Changes

Tavistock Place



AskPOB Taxi Driver Consultation

AskPOB conducted an independent survey to establish driver opinion on recent experimental traffic changes between Torrington Place and Tavistock Place. AskPOB is an impartial third party, working in collaboration with trade organisations and groups to reach as many drivers as possible and to understand how drivers and taxi customers are affected.

The consultation received 1,276 responses, of which 1,254 were from licensed London taxi drivers.

About the Trial

"Camden Council is introducing a trial of temporary traffic changes on the east/west route that includes the streets Torrington Place, Byng Place, Gordon Square, Tavistock Square and Tavistock Place.

The changes are planned to be in place for 12 months and will be introduced using an experimental traffic order. During this time detailed monitoring will be undertaken. Once the trial has been in place for a few months, the Council will write to local residents and businesses to formally seek views on the changes. All views received during the trial will help inform a decision on whether the changes should be made permanent.

Works for the trial will take place between 6 and 23 November and will include closure of the westbound lane to traffic. During this period cyclists will be directed to move into the new cycle lane when required."

Source: www.camden.gov.uk



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Consultation Questions

AskPOB asked 1,254 licensed London taxi drivers for their opinion on the following:

1) In your experience, how will the experimental traffic changes put in place by Camden Council affect the following?

- Road traffic
- Bike lane traffic
- Pedestrian safety
- Pollution

2) In your experience, how would you describe the traffic levels before the changes were imposed?

- Road traffic
- Bike lane traffic
- Pedestrian traffic

3) Since the experimental road changes were put in place, have you experienced an increase or decrease in traffic on the following roads?

- Holborn
- Holborn Circus
- Theobalds Road
- Great Russell Street
- Southampton Row
- Upper Woburn Place
- Grays Inn Road
- Gower Street
- Guilford Street
- Euston Road



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4) The new experimental traffic changes excludes wheelchair users, situated on the south side of the route, from using taxis. Do you support this idea?

5) How concerned or unconcerned are you in regards to pollution levels along Tavistock Place?

6) Do you think the experimental traffic changes should be made permanent?

7) To the closest year, how many years have you been a London taxi driver?



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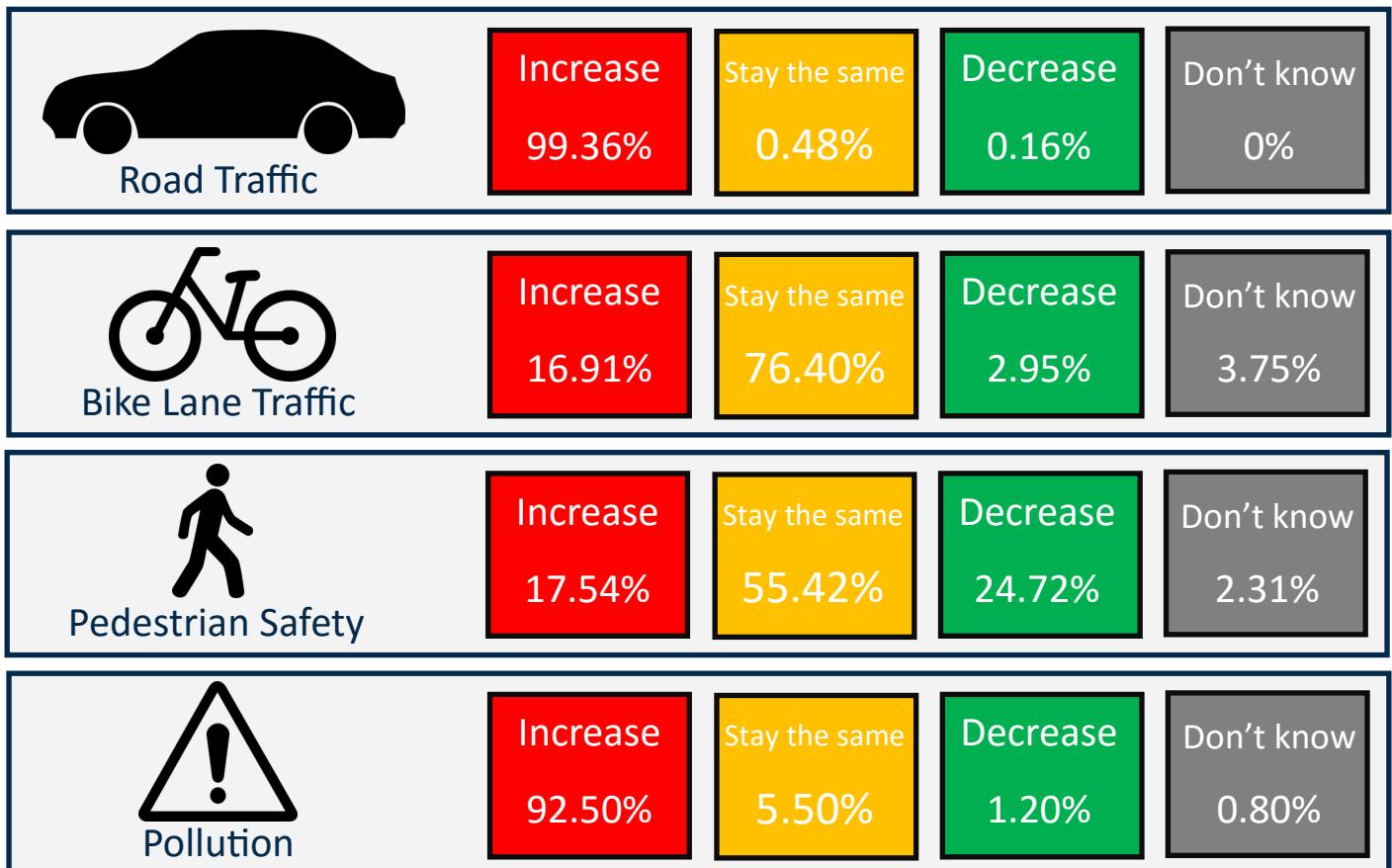
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The Results



"In your experience, how will the experimental traffic changes put in place by Camden Council affect the following?"

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(Results representative of the 1,254 licensed London taxi drivers consulted)

	Increase	Stay the same	Decrease	I don't know
Road traffic	1246	6	2	0
Bike lane traffic	212	958	37	47
Pedestrian safety	220	695	310	29
Pollution	1160	69	15	10

	Increase (%)	Stay the same (%)	Decrease (%)	I don't know (%)
Road traffic	99.36	0.48	0.16	0.00
Bike lane traffic	16.91	76.40	2.95	3.75
Pedestrian safety	17.54	55.42	24.72	2.31
Pollution	92.50	5.50	1.20	0.80

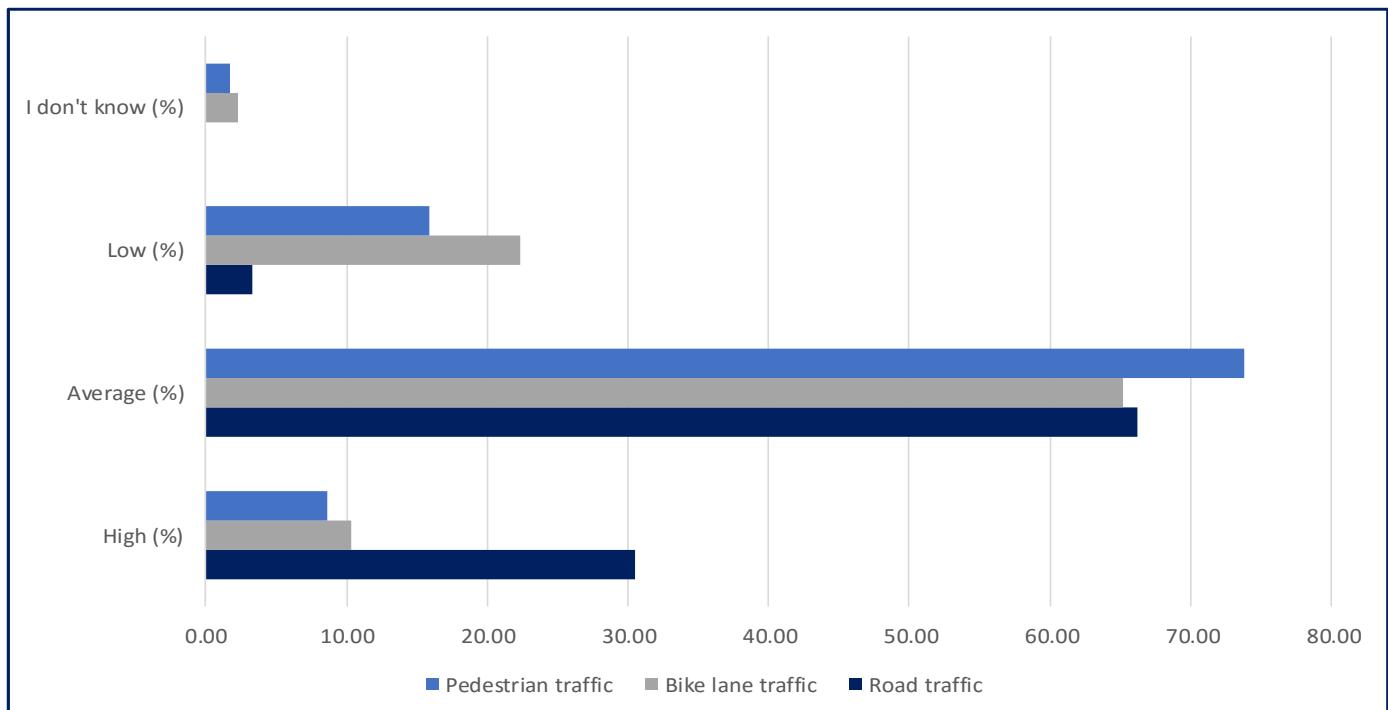


"In your experience, how would you describe the traffic levels before the changes were imposed?"

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Of the 1,254 licensed London taxi drivers consulted, the **majority thought all forms of traffic had an "Average" level of traffic before the changes were imposed.**

- **30.54%** of drivers canvassed thought **road traffic** was "**High**" before the changes.
- On average, **1 in 10 drivers** thought **pedestrian and bike lane traffic** was "**High**" before the changes.



	High	Average	Low	I don't know
Road traffic	383	830	41	0
Bike lane traffic	129	817	280	28
Pedestrian traffic	108	925	199	22

	High (%)	Average (%)	Low (%)	I don't know (%)
Road traffic	30.54	66.19	3.27	0.00
Bike lane traffic	10.29	65.15	22.33	2.23
Pedestrian traffic	8.61	73.76	15.87	1.75



“Since the experimental road changes were put in place, have you experienced an increase or decrease in traffic on the following roads?”

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Of the 1,254 licensed London taxi drivers consulted, **a significant majority have experienced a “Big increase” of traffic on all 10 roads identified in the survey.**

The most heavily affected road of the 10 identified is **Upper Woborn Place**, where **97.37% of all drivers are experiencing a “Big increase” in traffic.**

The least affected road in the study is **Holborn Circus**. However, **73.13% of drivers are still experiencing a “Big increase” in traffic.**

	Big increase	Slight increase	Levels about the same	Slight decrease	Big decrease	I don't know
High Holborn	1117	103	26	1	0	7
Holborn Circus	917	242	82	4	0	9
Theobalds Road	1032	172	41	0	2	7
Great Russell Street	1148	76	22	2	1	5
Southampton Row	1210	34	6	1	1	2
Upper Woborn Place	1221	27	3	0	1	2
Grays Inn Road	1051	165	30	2	1	5
Gower Street	1030	173	44	2	1	4
Guilford Street	1178	59	7	3	1	6
Euston Road	1123	102	23	1	0	5

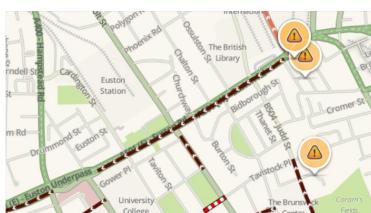
	Big increase (%)	Slight increase (%)	Levels about the same (%)	Slight decrease (%)	Big decrease (%)	I don't know (%)
High Holborn	89.07	8.21	2.07	0.08	0.00	0.56
Holborn Circus	73.13	19.30	6.54	0.32	0.00	0.72
Theobalds Road	82.30	13.72	3.27	0.00	0.16	0.56
Great Russell Street	91.55	6.06	1.75	0.16	0.08	0.40
Southampton Row	96.49	2.71	0.48	0.08	0.08	0.16
Upper Woborn Place	97.37	2.15	0.24	0.00	0.08	0.16
Grays Inn Road	83.81	13.16	2.39	0.16	0.08	0.40
Gower Street	82.14	13.80	3.51	0.16	0.08	0.32
Guilford Street	93.94	4.70	0.56	0.24	0.08	0.48
Euston Road	89.55	8.13	1.83	0.08	0.00	0.40



"Since the experimental road changes were put in place, have you experienced an increase or decrease in traffic on the following roads?"

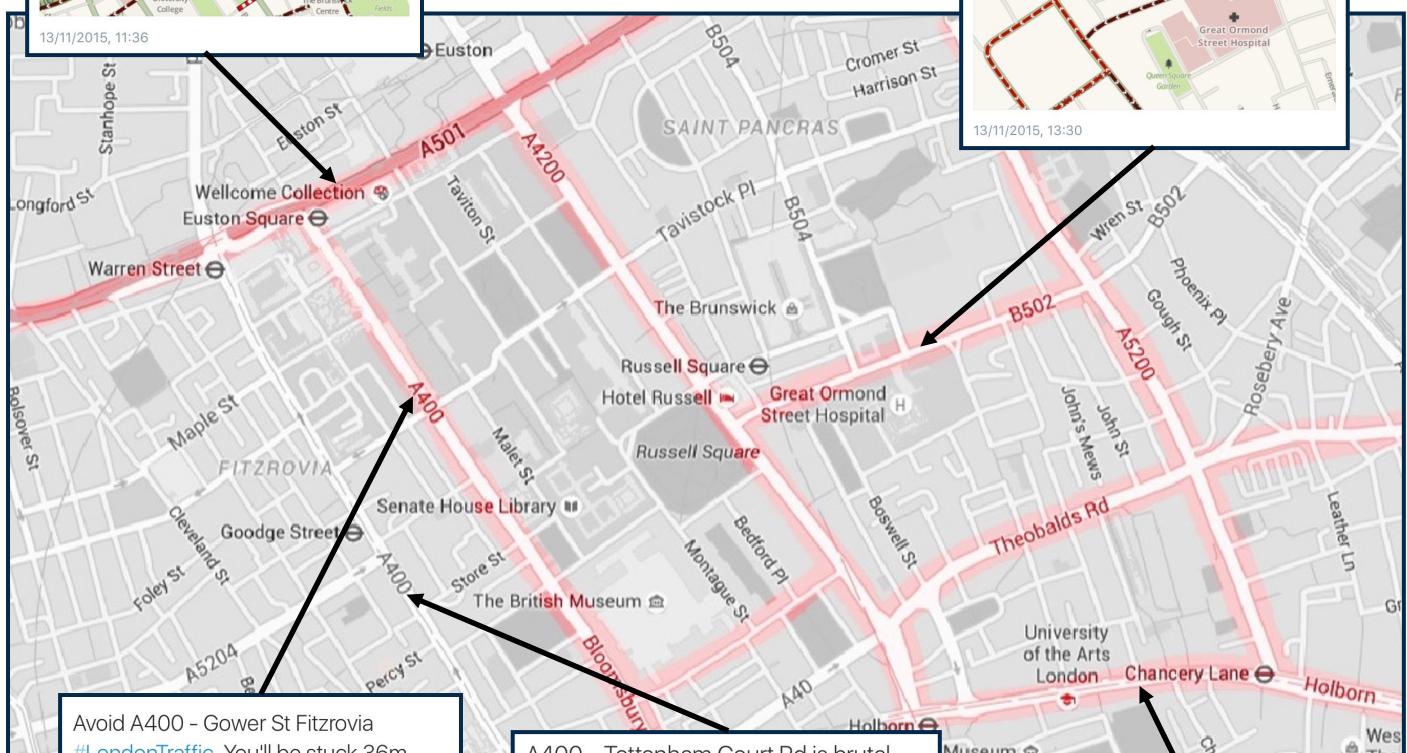
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UPDATE: A501 (W) - Euston Rd still unusually bad. Will add 1h 29m to your drive! waze.com/irregular_traf...

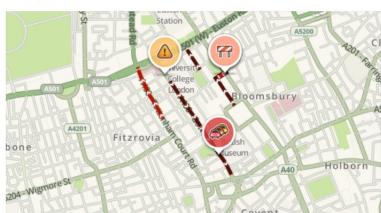


Popular driver opinion captured for this question is **backed up by real time traffic alerts generated by driver GPS (Waze)** such as the below...

Stay away from B502 - Guilford St today #LondonTraffic. Traffic is 41m slower than usual waze.com/irregular_traf...



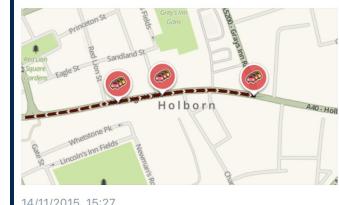
Avoid A400 - Gower St Fitzrovia #LondonTraffic. You'll be stuck 36m longer than usual waze.com/irregular_traf...



A400 - Tottenham Court Rd is brutal today! Will add 1h 1m to your route #LondonTraffic waze.com/irregular_traf...



Avoid A40 - High Holborn Holborn #LondonTraffic. You'll be stuck 52m longer than usual waze.com/irregular_traf...



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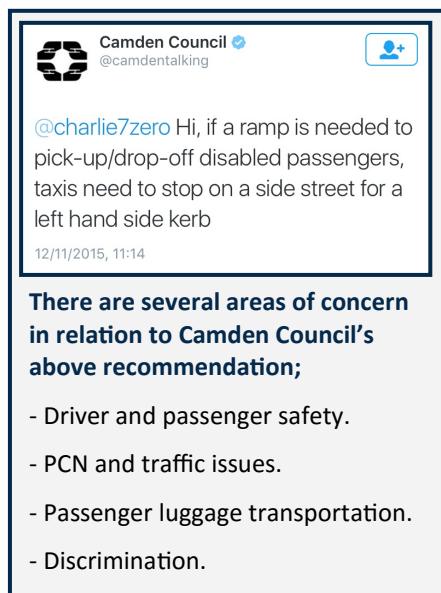
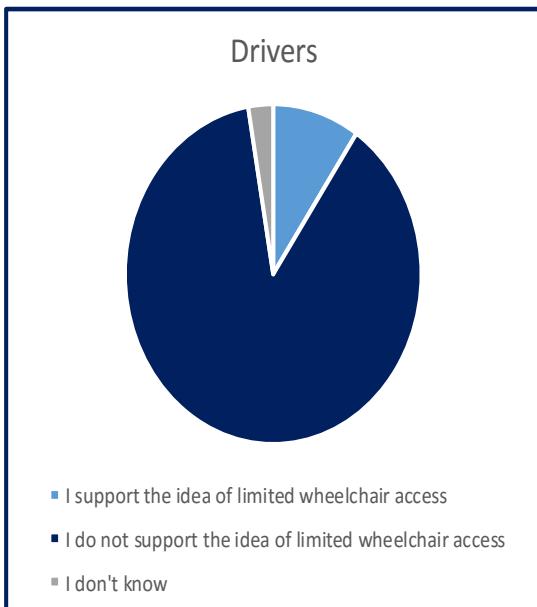


"The new experimental traffic changes excludes wheelchair users, situated on the south side of the route, from using taxis. Do you support this idea?"

AskPOB Tavistock Place Consultation November 2015

The **majority** of the 1,254 licensed London taxi drivers canvassed **do not support the idea of limited wheelchair access** along the experimental traffic change route.

- **87.8%** of drivers are **concerned** with the reduced wheelchair access for the general public.
- **9.49%** of drivers are **not concerned** with the limited wheelchair access for the general public.
- The experimental traffic changes are situated on and close to the **UCL Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital**. This area is heavily used by the general public, many of whom require wheelchair access.
- **Key hotels and places of interest** for disabled passengers have become **inaccessible for 0.4 miles** as a result of the experimental traffic changes.



	Number	Percentage
I support the idea of limited wheelchair access	119	9.49
I do not support the idea of limited wheelchair access	1101	87.80
I don't know	34	2.71



"How concerned or unconcerned are you in regards to pollution levels along Tavistock Place?"

AskPOB Tavistock Place Consultation November 2015

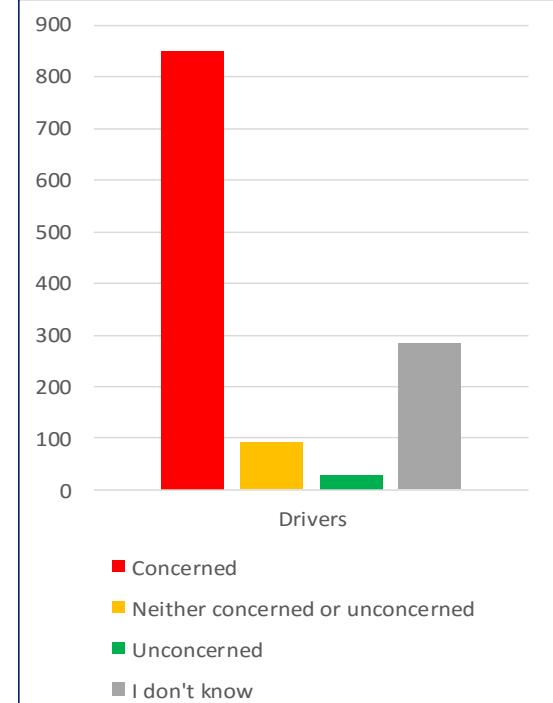
Of the 1,254 licensed London taxi drivers consulted, **67.86% of drivers are concerned about the pollution levels along Tavistock Place.**

Studies have found that those who live in big cities have a lower life expectancy because of poor air quality. London has by far the worst air pollution problem in the country; in 2010, **3,389 people died and 41,404 years of life were lost** as a result of air pollution in the capital, according to Public Health England.

This AskPOB consultation has highlighted the increased traffic caused by the experimental traffic changes. The **health implications** of these changes has caused great concern amongst the drivers surveyed.

A recent study conducted by the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) highlighted the following;

- People in cars and taxis are exposed to up to **15 times more pollution than walkers and cyclists.**
- Emissions are **highest in the centre of the carriageway**, where the cars are.
- **Dirty air is sucked in through car air filters** and breathed in by passengers and driver.
- The **cross-party group of five MPs** whom conducted the study, inhaled an average of **50 million soot particles per breath** in a London taxi.
- Those who live in big cities have **lower life expectancies because of pollution.**



	Drivers	Percentage
Concerned	851	67.86
Neither concerned or unconcerned	90	7.18
Unconcerned	29	2.31
I don't know	284	22.65



“Do you think the experimental traffic changes should be made permanent?”

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98.72% of the 1,254 licensed London taxi drivers consulted think the changes should not be made permanent.

This report has highlighted several **key concerns** for drivers, including;

- Traffic levels
- Disabled access
- Public safety
- Pollution
- Health implications

All of these concerns have arisen as a result of the changes currently imposed by Camden Council.

	Drivers	Percentage
Yes	10	0.80
No	1238	98.72
I don't know	6	0.48

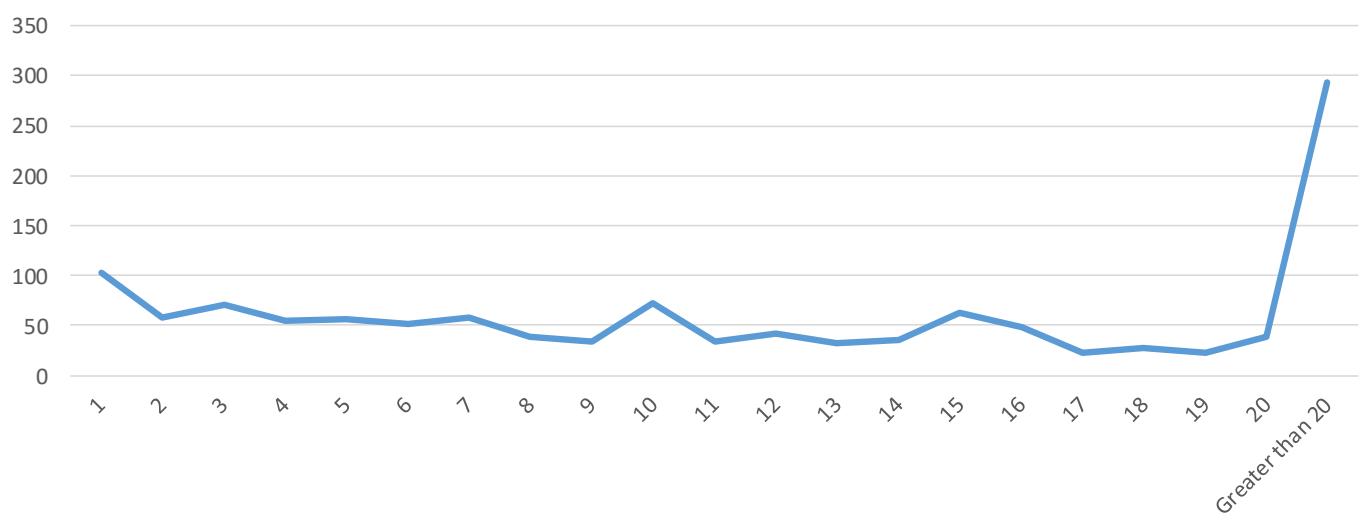


"To the closest year, how many years have you been a London taxi driver?"

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AskPOB consulted 1,254 licensed London taxi drivers to gather opinions on the recent experimental traffic changes within Camden Council. The **driving experience of the drivers consulted is varied** and therefore representative as a cross section of the trade. It is also **notable that 968 of the drivers had 5 or more years experience.**

How many years have you been a London taxi driver?



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Greater than 20
How many years have you been a London taxi driver?	103	58	71	54	57	51	58	38	34	72	34	42	32	36	63	48	22	27	22	39	293



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