# International experiences with regulatory changes

## The past, present and future

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# Pre-History

## 500 years in 2 minutes

- UK history starts around 1580, references to private coaches
- 1610, public transport, the carriage of members of the public for payment
- From 1617 (France) and 1620s in the UK - Hackney Carriages
- 1623 Opposition from the Honourable company of Thames Watermen
- 1635 Royal Proclamation, King James, regulates taxis.
- 1654 Hackney Carriage Act - Quantity Control
- 1711 Economic controls regulations applied in London
- 1834 Hansom Cab
- 1890 Bersey Electric Taxi
- 1891 Bruhn Taximeter
- 2009 First Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)

# Modern History

## The decade from 2010

- TNCs, *insert name here*, launched from 2009 in the USA
- The concept linked directly to the parallel development of the smartphone, and particularly associated with location services in later generations
- Responses to the new technology were limited, with a number of positions adopted, (as stages of grief) including:
  - Lack of attention, ignored
  - Belief the existing regulatory system would prevent widespread use
  - 'We've got an app'!
  - Court cases, mostly lost
- Regulators appeared under pressure, major and minor casualties, power of lobbying
- Public interest, defined?

# Today

## Chaos - Sorted?

- A brief word on Covid, particularly lack of drivers, and some impact on travel patterns (though this can be overplayed)
- A brief look at other transport types, particularly local buses

- Shifting public acceptability, service minimum that taxis find hard to match
- Shifting political markets, not least the lack of funding
- Changes to public transport services, private engagement though this differs by country, GB Transport Acts 1985 and 2019

- For the taxi industry the retention of a pure taxi market is lost.
- Technology combinations, taxi and TNC platform integration, BE AWARE in who's interest?

# A view on the future

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- Loss / degradation of regulation and the emergence of uneven regulation
  - Regulated Competition vs. Market Competition

- Market Balancing
  - Removal of ALL number controls, remove taxi protections
  - Re-specification and removal of tariff controls
  - Loss of primacy

- Recovery and rebirth
  - Taxi industry has always had a role in public contracts, schools, health etc
  - Collaborative working, with and FOR the TNC
  - Collaborative working, with and AS public transport, desperately needed

# Prescriptions

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1. Remove differentiations between Taxis and TNCs, and
   - Remove licensing differences between Taxis and Buses
   - Include taxis as FULLY INTEGRATED to public transport systems in all aspects
2. Address license caps, and critically
   - Ensure enforceable and enforced quality controls
3. Address price controls (tariff)
4. Consider fare support systems, entitlement cards, taxi cards or similar for qualified users. May require taxation revenue from (all of) the industry.