

L+D Express

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Drivers' 'plying for hire' fines

TWO cabbies have been fined for illegally picking up passengers off the street.

Luton private hire drivers Mohammed Ahmed, of Norton Road, and Muhummed Khan, of Leagrave Road, were caught by council officers who were carrying out an enforcement exercise in March.

Luton Borough Council swung into action after the Hackney Carriage trade complained about private hire drivers picking up passengers from the street who had not pre-booked a ride.

Last Monday Ahmed, 43, and Khan, 34, pleaded guilty at Luton Magistrates' Court to plying for hire. Ahmed received a £150 fine, £15 surcharge and was ordered to pay costs of £300. Khan, 34, was given a £65 fine, £15 surcharge and was ordered to pay costs of £743.

Councillor Dave Taylor said: "It is illegal for a private hire driver to 'ply for hire'. It is important for people to realise that if they get into a private hire car which isn't pre-booked, they are not insured if the driver has an accident."

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