

Uber gets back London license after winning court challenge

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This Wednesday, June 21, 2017, file photo shows the building that houses the headquarters of Uber, in San Francisco. Uber can keep operating in London after the ride-hailing company won a court appeal on Monday Sept. 28, 2020, against the refusal by transit regulators to renew its license. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg, File)

Uber can keep operating in London after the ride-hailing company won a court appeal on Monday against the refusal by transit regulators to renew its license.

The U.S. company had challenged Transport for London's decision in late 2019 not to renew its private hire vehicle (PHV) operating license over safety concerns involving imposter drivers.

"Despite their historical failings, I find them, now, to be a fit and proper person to hold a London PHV operator's license," Deputy Chief Magistrate Tanweer Ikram wrote in his decision.

However, he said he wanted to hear from lawyers for both sides before deciding how long Uber's license should be and under what conditions it should operate.

Uber was allowed to continue operating while the appeal was underway. The decision came after a four-day hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court earlier this month.

Transport for London had decided in 2019 to reject Uber's application for a new license, citing several breaches that placed passengers at risk. The regulator noted, among other things, that unauthorized [drivers](#) were able to carry out thousands of rides by uploading their photos to other driver accounts.

The magistrate said he took into account Uber's efforts to improve oversight and didn't find any evidence of a "cover up" of the driver photo fraud problem.

TFL had already revoked Uber's license once before, in 2017, but a [court](#) later granted it a [license](#) lasting 15 months, which TFL then extended for two more months in late 2019, but with 20 added

conditions.

The legal victory in a lucrative European market will help Uber as it struggles to turn a profit. The [company](#) posted a \$1.8 billion loss in the latest quarter, raising doubts that it can meet its goal of becoming profitable by 2021.

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