

Cabbies can take a back seat with taxi TV

BY DAVID WILLIAMS

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RELIEF is at hand for passengers in black cabs who are tired of being talked into submission by the driver.

From Easter, 1,000 cabs in London will have TV screens showing seven channels of news, sport, music and comedy, funded by advertising.

Re-runs of programmes such as *The Office* and *Only Fools and Horses*, extreme sports, fashion, music television and news will replace tall stories of the "you'll never guess who I had in the back of my cab" variety.

Cabvision, which is launching the scheme, aims to have screens in 4,000 cabs within three years. An airline is said to be the first sponsor. Drivers will be paid £750. There is one drawback — just like the cab driver's "commentary", passengers will not be able to turn the TV off.