

# Task and Finish Group on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle licensing

Terms of Reference

26 September 2017

## 1. Purpose

1.1. Following two recent Westminster Hall debates<sup>1</sup>, this informal working group has been established to consider the adequacy and efficiency of legislation and guidance concerning the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs) in England.

## 2. Objectives

2.1. The group is tasked with considering evidence relating to the adequacy of current taxi and PHV licensing authority powers, as set out in legislation and guidance, and making recommendations for actions to address any priority issues identified. Specifically:

- Identifying the current priority concerns regarding the regulation of the sector, based on evidence of impact and scale across England;
- Considering, in particular, the adequacy of measures in the licensing system to address those issues;
- Considering whether it would advise the Government to accept the recommendations made in the Law Commission's May 2014 report<sup>2</sup> on taxi and PHV legislative reform relevant to the issues, and;
- Making specific and prioritised recommendations, legislative and non-legislative, for action to address identified and evidenced issues.

2.2. The group should provide a concise report summarising its findings to the Department within 3 months of the first meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-07-05/debates/B7AF48A3-631F-48B7-A910-5A0E03F95EEE/WorkingConditionsInThePrivateHireIndustry> and <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-07-18/debates/CD611C60-C265-423C-85AE-C7545AC26FD4/TaxiTrade>

<sup>2</sup> Which can be downloaded from the Law Commission's website at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/taxi-and-private-hire-services/>

### **3. Membership**

3.1. We want to ensure that a broad range of views are sought to consider the issue, including both sides (taxi/PHV) of the trade, from regulators, Parliamentarians and passengers.

3.2. The Group will therefore be comprised of:

- An independent Chairman;
- Three representatives of the taxi and PHV industry, representing the interests of both sectors;
- One person representing the interests of licensing authorities outside London;
- Transport for London;
- One person representing passengers;
- One person representing drivers;
- Two Members of Parliament, from differing parties.
- A representative of the Competition and Markets Authority

3.3. Officials from the Department for Transport will attend to provide secretariat and policy support to the Group.

3.4. The group may invite others (from the trade, regulators, Government, or the public) to attend discussions or give evidence, but they will not be formal members of the group.

### **4. Governance**

4.1. These Terms of Reference will be finalised in correspondence and agreed formally during the first meeting. Any proposed changes should be sent to the Department for Transport for consideration at least a week before the first meeting, and are subject to mutual agreement between the group and the Department.

4.2. The group may hold up to five meetings before its summary document is issued.

4.3. The final version of the summary document must be issued within three months of the group's first meeting.

4.4. The group will aim to reach a consensus view, but where that is not possible differences of view will be recorded in the summary document.

4.5. Meetings will normally be held at the Department for Transport's offices at 33 Horseferry Road, London, though members may participate by teleconference.

4.6. Meeting papers will be issued electronically at least three working days prior to each meeting.