



Department
for Transport

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

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Council Leaders

27 January 2021

Dear Council Leaders,

TAXI & PHV LICENSING – STATUTORY TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE STANDARDS

I would like to thank you and your teams for all the hard work that has been undertaken to overcome the challenges to the licensing system created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you will be aware, in July last year the Government published the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards to licensing authorities aimed at safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Statutory Standards set out a range of robust measures to protect passengers, particularly those most vulnerable. When the Statutory Standards were published the Secretary of State indicated that the Department would be requesting an update from licensing authorities on their consideration of the Statutory Standards by the end January 2021.

To make it as easy as possible for licensing authorities to provide this update, I am asking that all licensing authorities complete a short online questionnaire on implementation of the Statutory Standards. The online questionnaire can be found [here](#) and the deadline for completing the questionnaire is Wednesday 10 February. My officials will be emailing licensing teams separately. This survey will provide a snap shot of early progress made and determine any further steps my Department may need to take to see the Statutory Standards implemented across England.

I have seen the impacts COVID-19 has had on the work of central government and do not underestimate these on local government, but the importance of this work cannot be overstated. I would repeat to you the overarching message in the Statutory Standards:

“When formulating a taxi and private hire vehicle policy, the primary and overriding objective must be to protect the public. The importance of ensuring that the licensing regime protects the vulnerable cannot be overestimated.”

My officials are available to discuss this with your teams, should any assistance be required, please contact Taxis@dft.gov.uk.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON