



Listening Learning Leading

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John Howell OBE, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Wantage
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

6 March 2020
Via email: howelljm@parliament.uk

Dear John,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire Horse District Council regarding the legislation governing taxi and private hire vehicle licensing. The Department for Transport tacitly acknowledged, through the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to examine these matters, that the existing rules and regulations in this area were no longer fit for purpose. Yet, despite this admission – and the subsequent publication of the Task and Finish Group's detailed list of recommendations – very little progress seems to have been made in bringing the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles into the twenty-first century.

South Oxfordshire, therefore, requests that HM Government moves forward without delay on the three key measures recommended by the Task and Finish Group to achieve a safe service for passengers, namely:

- The introduction of a national licensing database
- Some form of cross-border enforcement for local authorities
- National minimum standards for licences

The Department for Transport, in their response to the Task and Finish Group's report, accepted in principle all these suggestions, but in the intervening period we have seen little, if any, action taken on these matters.

The Council also asks that HM Government provides an update in respect of how they propose to deal with cross-border working. New technology has changed the landscape in relation to this issue and, therefore, the existing legislation is outdated. Further, we also believe that HM Government should legislate to require any person taking bookings for more than one vehicle to be licensed as an operator, with national standards for the information recorded.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Sue Cooper
Leader of the Council