

T.T.n.H.

14/9/2022

Opening Statement to the Oireachtas Transport Committee.

Firstly, we would like to thank the Chairperson, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to address the Transport Committee and to outline issues affecting the Taxi Sector.

Vehicle age,

At the outset of the pandemic, we requested a five-year extension for all vehicles to include new vehicles with loans attached, and older vehicles due to exit the sector. Currently we have an Electric Vehicle grant, however stock has become a real issue. Drivers with older vehicle cannot source an electric vehicle. If the operator changes vehicle in the short term due to end of vehicle life the vehicle purchased will not meet the criteria for the grant. We have requested a common-sense approach leaving operators in existing vehicles until electric vehicles become available. We have written to the Minister for Transport with this request. (doc attached).

Taxi Sector,

It is our view the sector needs to be incorporated into the public transport system. Taxis are the only 365 days a year 24-hour door to door transport service. This would lead to inclusion at large scale events resulting in temporary taxi stands and set down and drop off facilities. Currently large venues throughout the city have no taxi stands or set down or drop off areas resulting in operators not offering their services at the venues. Difficulties with parking and the threat of being fined are some of the reasons operators quoted. Dublin City Councils lack of engagement with the Taxi Sector at major public events needs to be addressed.

Taxi Advisory Committee,

T.T.n.H. resigned our seat to the committee during the early months of the pandemic. It is our view the sector should be in a negotiation position as opposed to an advisory position. We requested changes to the committee all were refused. Many of the proposals we submitted to the Depart of Transport and the TAC were not adopted. The TAC needs to be disbanded for a National Transport Forum allowing all bodies who provide public transport to input positively to the Transport System of Ireland. (see attached doc).

Licence Transfer,

Currently licences are non-transferable except on the death of the licence holder. Up until this decision a taxi operator seen his/her licence as a business with the opportunity to build a small business to be shared or passed on to a family member therefore bringing younger generations into the sector. As this is no longer possible until death many drivers see the licence as a way of getting a weekly wage and don't see it as a small business to build upon.

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