



IRISH TAXI DRIVERS' FEDERATION

Representing full-time drivers throughout Ireland

Special Committee on Covid 19 Response

Many thanks for the opportunity to make a submission to the committee.

We have no idea of the long term damage to the taxi industry that will result from the pandemic. We have nothing to base any estimate on and can only hope that any permanent damage will be limited. We feel however that the recovery will be very slow due to the nature of our business. The taxi industry by its nature depends on other industries being busy. General tourism, hotel trade, pubs and clubs to name some have a huge influence on the taxi industry. If they are not busy then taxis will not be busy.

How many taxis will not resume operating? Again we simply have no idea but it is highly unlikely that it will be possible for the same number of drivers as pre pandemic to earn a living from driving a taxi.

We feel it is essential that it is made compulsory that people using taxis wear face masks, this would appear to be the advice of the medical experts. Whether or not screens should be fitted is a matter left to the experts in the fields of virus transmission. The wearing of masks would we believe be the best way of preventing a second wave of infection from driver to passenger and visa versa.

To assist drivers returning to work we feel that it is going to be necessary for the state to support financially for some time to come. Mortgage and vehicle payments will soon resume and in the current climate there is no way that drivers will be able to service their commitments without such support.

Again I thank you for this opportunity and should you think I can be of any further help to you please do not hesitate to contact me and I will make myself available to you at any time.

Joe Herron

President , Irish Taxi Drivers' Federation.