



Department
for Transport

Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles

An update from the Department for Transport

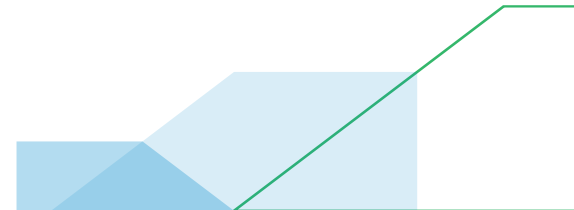
Paul Elliott & Dom Lowe

6th April 2022

UNRESTRICTED

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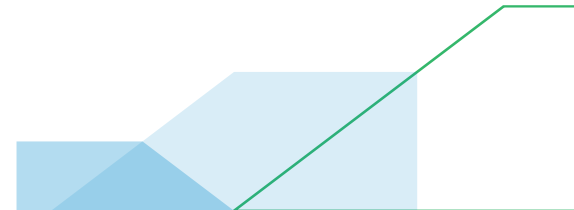
Taxis and PHVs (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022

Overview of the Act

Peter Gibson MP brought forward the Bill to improve information-sharing between licensing authorities.

The Act does two things:

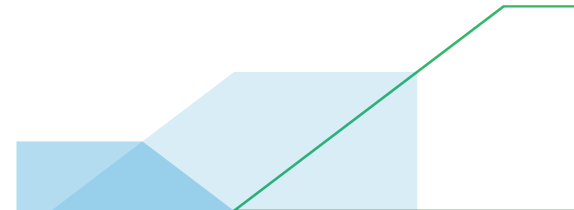
1. Mandates the recording of suspensions, refusals and revocations on a database.
2. Requires licensing authorities to report serious safeguarding and road safety concerns about a driver to the authority that issued the licence so they can consider whether to suspend/revoke the driver's licence.



Next steps...

The Act received Royal Assent on 31 March 2022, this means that:

- From 31 May 2022, the duties to report concerns about drivers licensed in other areas, and for the concerns to be considered, come into force.
- DfT will decide who the database operator will be. The requirement to record information on the database will be commenced following this decision and the publication of statutory guidance later in the year.
- DfT will be communicating regularly with licensing authorities to support them in complying with the new legislation.

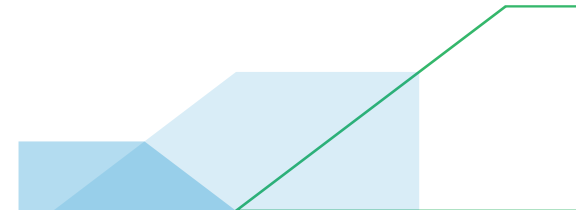


Taxis and PHVs (Disabled Persons) Bill 2022

Overview of the Bill

Jeremy Wright MP brought forward the Bill in the House of Commons to amend the taxi and PHV sections of the Equality Act 2010.

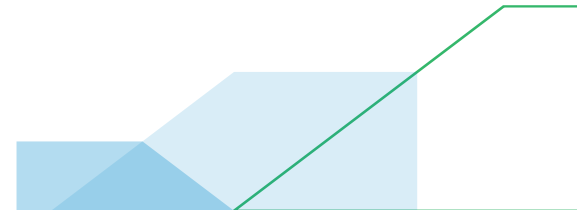
- The Bill aims to address the barriers disabled people face when accessing taxis/PHVs, preventing overcharging and ensuring they are given appropriate assistance.
- It would amend the taxi and PHV sections of the Equality Act 2010 to address inconsistencies in the current provision and expand the protections currently afforded to wheelchair and assistance dog users to all disabled people, regardless of the vehicle they travel in.



Next steps...

The Bill passed 2nd Reading in the House of Lords on 1 April 2022, this means:

- The Bill is up for its Committee Stage in the House of Lords on 7th April.
- There is a risk that the Parliamentary session will end before the Bill is passed, in which case it will fall.
- If the Bill passes, DfT will issue guidance to support licensing authorities in implementing the new legislation.

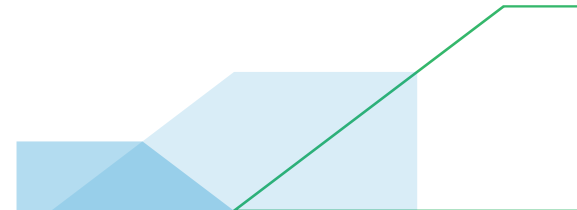


Best Practice Guidance Consultation

Overview of the Best Practice Guidance

The Department has issued for consultation revised Best Practice Guidance to support licensing authorities and bring greater consistency.

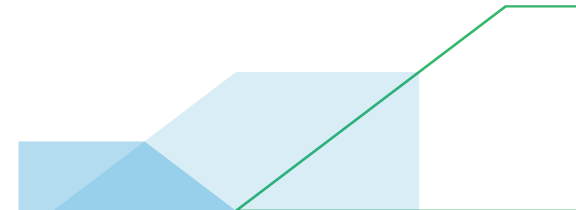
- Sector has changed significantly since the last version in 2010 and so there are significant changes too.
- Consultation was launched on 28 March and will run until 23:45 on 20 June.
- We encourage licensing authorities to contribute to the consultation and ask that you encourage your licensees and residents to respond too.
- Sits alongside the Statutory Standards - these are unchanged.



Overview of the Best Practice Guidance

Safety of the public is paramount, licensing authorities also have a duty to ensure that they carry out their activities in a way that supports the people and businesses that they regulate.

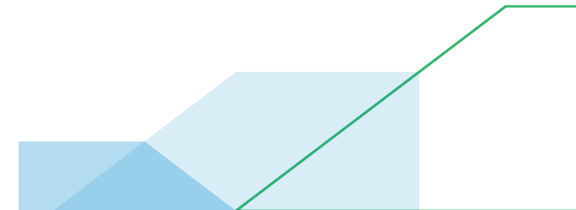
- The best practice guidance aligns with overarching principles in the Regulators' Code that unnecessary burdens should be avoided and that regulators should choose proportionate approaches.
- Considered the report by the Competition and Markets Authority.
- The measures in the Statutory Standards are focussed on safety, the best practice guidance is seeking to make these safe services readily available.



Overview of the Best Practice Guidance

DfT identified in the consultation document areas where further discussion of the issues is considered helpful to those responding to this consultation to reach a conclusion.

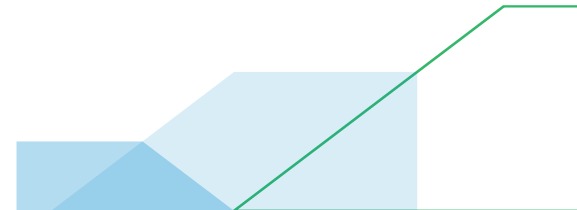
- Driver licensing – proficiency
- Driver licensing – vocational training and assessment
- Vehicle licensing – tinted windows
- vehicle licensing – identification and signage
- vehicle licensing – age limits



The Future

Looking ahead...

- Respond to the consultation on best practice guidance
- Taxis and PHVs (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022
- Taxis and PHVs (Disabled Persons) Bill 2022 - TBC
- The commitment to introduce National Minimum Standards, National Enforcement Powers and National Licensing Database remains.



Questions

We are unable to give detailed legal answers to any questions. Licensing authorities should seek their own legal advice.

Further questions may be sent to taxis@dft.gov.uk

