



27/01/2016.

Mr Paschal donohoe T.D.
Minister for Transport, Tourism,
and Sport,
344 North Circular Road,
Phibsborough,
Dublin 7.

I,
Am writing on behalf of the members of T.T.n.H., a representative organisation for full time single licence holders.

With the impending general election looming we would seek your views and your parties views on the following,

1. The lapsed licence rule taxi regulation act 2013 which sees drivers out of the business for a varying degree of reasons whether illness, personal hardship or impending insurance cases and civil cases losing their licence. It is our view an independent panel should be set up for individual licence holders to appeal on hardship grounds.

2. Currently the Taxi Advisory Committee is the only vehicle in which Drivers can have an input into the decision making process within their industry. The majority of decisions are made with public consultations and Taxi drivers view and opinions are invited as part of this process. It is our belief that a proper negotiation procedure should be put in place between the NTA and Taxi Representatives resulting into a fairer input into the industry for drivers.

3. Current government policy calls for the integration of all public transport services. As the taxi industry now carries the transport for Ireland logo and is under the auspices of the NTA, contrary to this policy prime city centre taxi stands are being removed to facilitate other public transport services leaving the taxi sector disadvantaged.

4. Other EU jurisdictions encourage upgrading of the Taxi Fleet with generous VAT reductions for full time single licence holders. It is our opinion a similar scheme should be introduced in Ireland to alleviate the financial burden of upgrading your vehicle. This scheme should only be made available to single licence holders, excluding persons who retain other employment.

5. Recent media reports have shown a large number of springboard and other training courses positions remain unfilled. T.T.n.H would like to see a policy implemented whereby drivers wishing to exit the industry could avail of these places.

These are a number of issues affecting single licence holders and we would request these issues and your overall taxi policy document on the taxi industry.

We will be encouraging members to favour parties in the election based on the responses to the above.

Regards,

Alan Brennan

Secretary

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