



**Department
for Transport**

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

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Mrs Gareth Edmundson
Cheltenham Borough Council
By email: Gareth.Edmundson@cheltenham.gov.uk

27 April 2021

Dear Gareth Edmundson,

TAXI & PHV LICENSING – STATUTORY TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE STANDARDS

I would like to thank you and your teams for completing the survey issued by my Department in January to assess the progress in considering and implementing measures set out in the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards published in July 2020.

The Government issued the Statutory Standards to licensing authorities to enhance the safeguarding measures the taxi and private hire vehicle licensing regime requires and so protect the most vulnerable in communities. As you will be aware, the regulation of the trade is only as strong as the weakest link and so we must continue to drive up standards where they are deficient, and this must be achieved as a matter of urgency.

Making the necessary changes to your policies to align them with the Statutory Standards is incredibly important to secure the safety of passengers. I am aware from the survey response that some licensing authorities are already applying the Statutory Standards to new licence applications and I welcome this. We expect authorities to explore all options to ensure the Statutory Standards apply to all licence holders at the earliest opportunity and not just at renewal. I cannot stress enough the importance of bringing about these changes to protect the public.

Authorities have overall made significant progress despite the challenges we have all faced in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The response your authority submitted in January said that your review was currently or will shortly be in progress, based on the responses from other authorities our view is that the review should be completed before 31 December 2021, so that any changes to policies can be in place as soon as possible in 2022.

If your authority is unable to meet with the timeline and feel that the Department can support you, my officials are available to discuss this with your licensing teams; please contact Taxis@dft.gov.uk.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON