



The Rt Hon. Grant Shapps, M.P.  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Via email: grant.shapps@dft.gov.uk

135 Eastern Avenue  
Milton Park  
Milton  
Oxfordshire  
OX14 4SB

Dear Mr Shapps,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council regarding the legislation governing taxi and private hire vehicle licensing.

The Department for Transport tacitly acknowledged, through the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to examine these matters, that the existing rules and regulations in this area were no longer fit for purpose. Yet, despite this admission – and the subsequent publication of the Task and Finish Group's detailed list of recommendations – very little progress seems to have been made in bringing the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles into the twenty-first century.

The Vale, therefore, requests that HM Government moves forward without delay on the three key measures recommended by the Task and Finish Group to achieve a safe service for passengers, namely:

- The introduction of a national licensing database
- Some form of cross-border enforcement for local authorities
- National minimum standards for licences

The Department for Transport, in their response to the Group's report, accepted in principle all these suggestions, but in the intervening period we have seen little, if any, action taken on these matters.

The Council also asks that HM Government provides an update in respect of how they propose to deal with cross-border working. New technology has changed the landscape in relation to this issue and, therefore, the existing legislation is outdated. Further, we also believe that HM Government should legislate to require any person taking bookings for more than one vehicle to be licensed as an operator, with

national standards for the information recorded by licensed operators in respects of bookings.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Smith".

Councillor Emily Smith  
Leader of the Council