



## Department for Transport

James Button  
Institute of Licensing  
[Sent via email]

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
**Lilian Greenwood MP**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [lilian.greenwood@dft.gov.uk](mailto:lilian.greenwood@dft.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

13 May 2026

Dear James,

### **Pre-legislative scrutiny for a taxi and private hire vehicle bill**

I am pleased to confirm that we have been granted authority for pre-legislative scrutiny for a bill to reform taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) legislation. Pre-legislative scrutiny is the detailed examination of an early draft of a Bill which is done by a parliamentary select committee. This is done ahead of a draft bill being introduced.

This builds on the work we have done through the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act. That Act gave us the powers to set national standards for taxi and PHV licensing and provide licensing authorities with greater powers to enable the temporary suspension, with immediate effect, of any licence issued by any authority in whose area it is being used if such immediate action is needed to protect public safety.

The taxi and private hire vehicle bill will modernise taxi and PHV laws to make everyday journeys safer, fairer and easier. It will strengthen public safety, remove barriers for disabled passengers, and reflect how people travel today – including the use of booking apps. By supporting a growing, innovative sector while making streets safer, especially for women and girls, the bill will deliver taxi and PHV services people can trust. The bill will:

- **Modernise taxi and PHV law for the way people travel today**, replacing a patchwork of outdated, Victorian-era rules with a single, consistent framework across England which passengers and drivers can trust.
- **Be the final step to delivering on our commitment to legislate in response to Baroness Casey's National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, fixing a fragmented system that has not always protected passengers as it should, strengthening public safety and accountability** by setting clear requirements for obtaining and holding licences, improving the efficiency of licensing and the use of strong, consistent enforcement powers with funding for enforcement matched to where services are delivered. Baroness Casey was clear that inconsistent taxi and private hire vehicle licensing creates vulnerabilities, particularly as it relates to children, that can be exploited by grooming gangs. Reforming the system is essential to strengthen the safeguarding response and disrupt any potential exploitation.
- **Give regulators stronger enforcement powers** so swift and effective action can be taken when drivers or operators breach their licence conditions, helping to drive up standards and tackle poor or unsafe practice.

- **Improve transparency and information-sharing nationwide** by mandating use of a national database of all licensed vehicles, drivers and PHV operators, so licensing authorities can better protect the public and passengers can have greater confidence in the system.
- **Deliver more accessible services for disabled passengers**, by strengthening existing protections and removing barriers to travel helping ensure people who rely most on taxis and PHVs are not left behind.
- **Provide a consistent customer experience wherever people travel**, so passengers can expect safe, reliable and properly regulated services whether they're travelling locally or long distances across local authority boundaries.
- **Support a thriving, professional sector** by creating clearer rules to enable fair competition, while underpinning the wider economy – from the night-time economy to shift workers and local businesses.

I look forward to continuing engagement with you as we take this important work forward.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lilian', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**LILIAN GREENWOOD MP**  
**MINISTER FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT**