

# Scottish Government submission of 23 September 2022

## PE1960/A: Formally recognise private hire cars and taxis as modes of public transport

The Scottish Government recognises the important role that private hire and taxi drivers play within our local communities. Transport Scotland works closely with both the taxi and private hire industry representatives, and local authorities across a number of areas, including support throughout the pandemic, introduction of Low Emission Zones, and passenger accessibility. Scottish Government Justice Directorate engage regularly with the taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) industry in matters relating to licensing, with the day to day administration of taxi and PHV licensing undertaken by local authorities.

Many planning decisions are the responsibility of individual local authorities and engagement on such decisions would be for each local authority to decide.

A Scottish Government-led Short Life Working Group is currently reviewing and updating the Scottish Government 'Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing: Best Practice for Licensing Authorities' guidance document. Members of the working group include Transport Scotland, a number of local authorities, UNITE the Union and representatives of the taxi and private hire trade, including the Scottish Private Hire Association.

There is no universal legal definition of *Public Transport* and each transport mode is subject to specific legislation. There is no obvious legislation that could be amended to enshrine a definition in law and set out the relationship between the different transport sectors and local and national government. We do however consider the provision of taxis as a vital part of the transport system and will continue to engage with representatives as transport policy evolves.

I trust you find this information helpful.