

## LESS TAXING TAXI TRIPS FOR DISABLED PASSENGERS

New proposals to improve access to taxis for disabled people across the UK have been launched by Transport Minister Paul Clark. The consultation is asking how improvements that could be made to the design of vehicles and how taxi companies can offer a better service to people with mobility issues. Transport Minister Paul Clark said: "I know that taxis are essential for many people with disabilities - helping them to live independent lives, and get more easily from A to B. That's why we're launching this consultation - to find ways of ensuring that taxis are available that meet people's needs." There are around 85,000 taxis in England and Wales, with 40,000 of these being accessible, purpose built vehicles, with more than half of these taxis in London. There are approximately 140,000 private hire vehicles in the UK, around 45,000 of which are in London.

The Disability Discrimination Act (part 3) gives disabled people a "right of access" to goods, services and facilities. Taxi drivers have to take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled people are able to use their vehicles. Commencing section 36 of DDA will enable improved enforcement of driver duties towards disabled people. The Department for Work and Pensions estimate that there are currently over 10 million disabled people in Britain, 4.6 million of which are over state pension age. 700,000 are children. One in four households has a disabled member.

Under the Disability Discrimination Act it is already unlawful for taxi drivers to discriminate against disabled people and they have a responsibility to provide a full service to all passengers. However, this is

currently difficult to enforce by law and there is no universal standard for what constitutes an accessible taxi. The Government has therefore published this public consultation to discuss the most effective way of improving access to taxis for people with a variety of disabilities. It asks for views on:



- \* improving access to taxis so that people with different types of impairment or disability can receive an equal level of service provision;
- \* a set standard for accessibility in taxis;
- \* whether the standard should be issued as guidance or introduced as a regulation;
- \* exploring issues and options in relation to enforcement, driver training and links with other local transport policies and initiatives;
- \* improving enforcement.

The consultation can be found here [www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/consulttaxis](http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/consulttaxis) and closes on 24th April 2009. Following this consultation, a policy strategy will be published in Summer 2009 that will set out in detail the conclusions of the consultation and the way forward.

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e-mail [wintickets@bobevents.co.uk](mailto:wintickets@bobevents.co.uk) with your name and contact details you must mark the subject line of your e-mail 'TaxiCab News'. One ticket per e-mail.



## MAGICAL TAXI TOUR DVD NOW AVAILABLE

A DVD of the 2008 Magical Taxi Tour is now available to buy. This was the 15th annual trip, taking sick and terminally ill children on the trip of a lifetime. Guests at the Disney Dinner at The Marriott in December saw the images and DVD as they enjoyed the event and many people have asked when and where they can get a copy.

Now you can order your copy by simply sending a cheque for a minimum donation of £5.00 to cover postage and packing.

Cheques should be made payable to CHCD Charity Trust and crossed "Special Events Acc" and posted to

Magical Taxi Tour  
CHCD Charity Trust  
PO Box 2113  
Chigwell  
IG7 6BP



The Magical Taxi Tour website has also undergone a transformation - log on and take a look at [www.magicaltaxitour.com](http://www.magicaltaxitour.com) where you can learn more about the trip and its sponsors. The website is also able to accept donations for the future Magical Taxi Tours