

Transport Scotland submission of 9 June 2022

PE1856/R - Support the taxi trade

Thank you for your letter of 6 May 2022 requesting information on how the Scottish Government is supporting the taxi trade.

Throughout the pandemic, the Scottish Government has worked closely with stakeholders and local authorities to address the challenges faced by taxis and private hires, and we have provided over £107 million in grant support since the start of the pandemic. This includes the additional funding of up to £28 million made available to the sector as a result of the necessary public health measures we introduced to combat the Omicron variant.

We delivered our 100 day commitment to provide a second £1,500 payment to eligible taxi drivers and up to £15,000 for eligible taxi operators. As part of this, local authorities automatically made a further payment of £1,500 to all drivers who previously received a grant meaning eligible drivers will have received a total of £3,000. Grants of up to £15,000 were available for taxi operator firms based on the number of vehicle licences each owner/operator holds. This was on top of eligibility for the UK Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

To support a just transition to net zero, funding is now being prioritised to focus on used electric vehicles, businesses and people living in rural areas, those operating light commercial vehicles as part of their business, in addition to the taxi sector. By providing interest free loans for used electric cars and for new light commercial vehicles and taxis, we continue to support our ambition to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030.

Figures are published annually by Transport Scotland that provide information on licensing figures for taxi and private hire cars and their drivers and numbers of wheelchair accessible taxis. The data is collated from returns from the 32 independent licensing authorities and the latest figures for 2020 from the Scottish Transport Statistics is included in Annex A.

While Scottish Government monitor and publish taxi figures annually, it is for each licensing authority to manage the numbers of taxis in their local authority area.

I hope this information is helpful.