

## Petitioner submission of 2 March 2023

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

In response to a submission made on our petition PE1960 (Formally recognise private hire cars and taxis as modes of public transport) made by Confederation of Public Transport (CPT) dated 16 December 2022:

We appreciate the response from CPT, however we believe that their interpretation of the word "private" is incorrect. The submission asserts that the use of the word "private" relates to "private car", however we assert that this is not entirely accurate. First, the taxi trade is not considered as 'private hire', it is classified as 'public hire' and their vehicles referred to as 'public hire vehicles'. The other side of this equation is 'private hire' and 'private hire vehicles'. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 gives us the statutory provisions related to the licensing of these forms of transport.

It is incorrect to say that private hire cars and public hire taxis are "private vehicles". The word private does not refer to the vehicle itself, but rather refers to the method of hire - that is, the vehicles may be privately booked for private journeys. I wish to point out that similar contractual hires are carried out using buses and coaches. Members of the public are able to privately hire a coach and when doing so that coach does not cease to be a method of public transport.

A further related point that we wish to highlight to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee is that there exists provisions to allow taxis and private hire cars to offer "taxibus" services using 'special restricted licences' within the Public Service Vehicle licensing regime.