

---

**Mark H Durkan MLA**  
**Minister of the Environment**  
**Goodwood House, 44 - 58 May Street,**  
**Town Parks, Belfast BT1 4NN**

---

**Lord Morrow MLA**  
**Northern Ireland Assembly**  
**Parliament Buildings**  
**Ballymiscaw**  
**Stormont**

**AQW 39365/11-15**

**Lord Morrow MLA has asked:**

**To ask the Minister of the Environment, further to the appearance of a departmental official at the Committee for the Environment on 20 November 2014, to provide or place in the Assembly Library, a copy of the full consultation document which he states is the source of the letter from Vehicle Policy Branch headed TAXI (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008 PROPOSED NEW TAXI PLATES, as well as a list detailing who the document was sent to and when.**

**ANSWER**

The information requested has been placed in the Assembly Library.

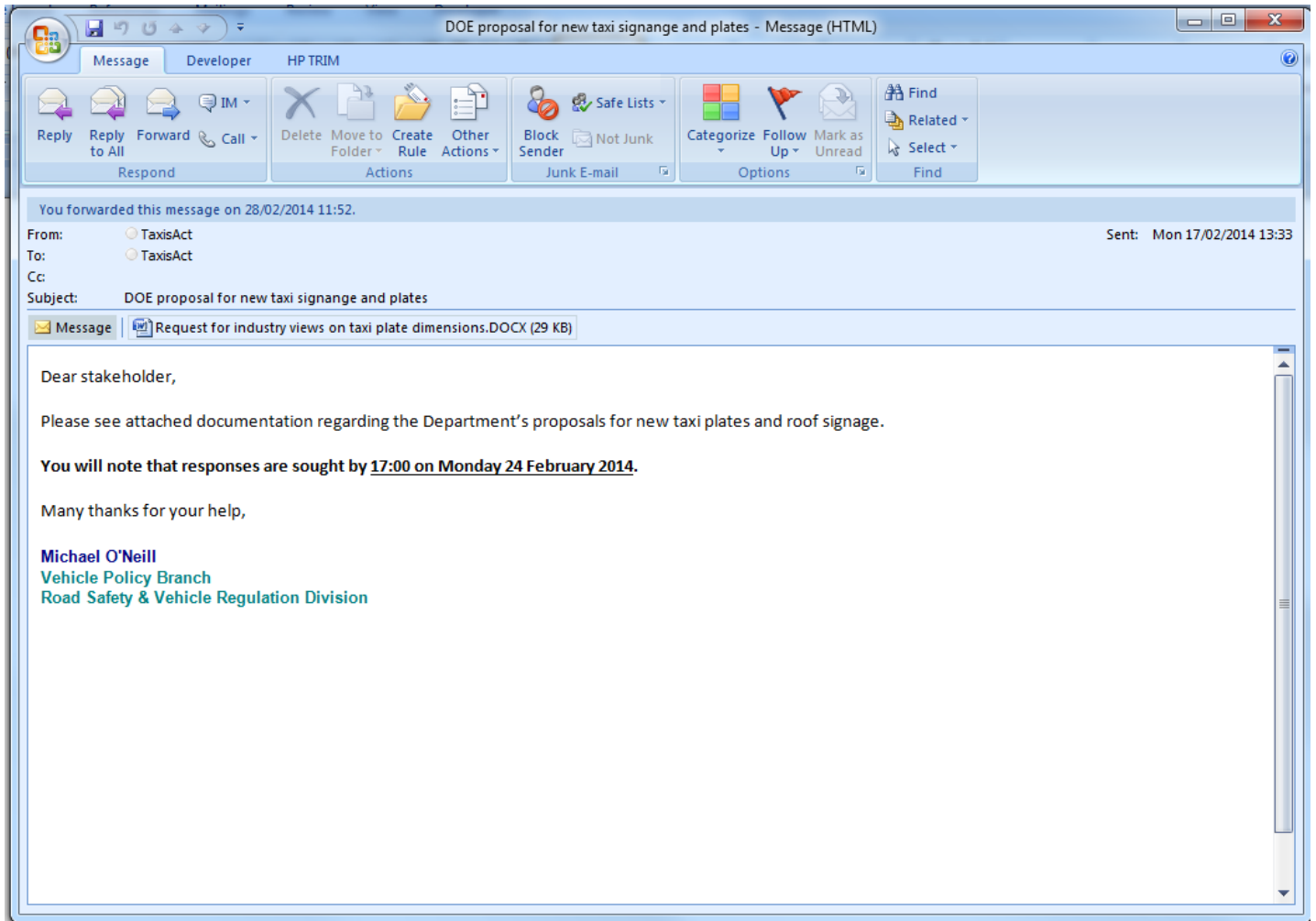
**Signed:**   
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mark H Durkan MLA**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
03/12/14

## INFORMATION PERTAINING TO AQW 39365/11-15

Email to stakeholders dated 17 February 2014



Email issued to the following organisations.

Date issued	Recipient
17 Feb 2014	Belfast Public Hire taxi Drivers
"	Taxiline (Newry)
"	Eagle Taxis (Belfast)
"	Citycabs (Derry)
"	Fonacab
"	Value Cabs
"	Accessible Taxi Association (NI)
"	North West Taxi Proprietors
"	Disability Action
"	Consumer Council
"	Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC)
18 Feb 2014 *	Airphone UK
21 Feb 2014 *	Taxi Supplies NI
24 Feb 2014 *	Public Hire Coalition

\* upon request

## **TAXIS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008 PROPOSED NEW TAXI PLATES**

In July 2011 the Department issued a consultation to seek views on a wide number of issues around taxi licensing. Specifically, the Department sought comments on the proposal to require taxi plates to be fixed to the roof sign rather than the front and back of the vehicle. Over 76% of respondents indicated support for the proposal, indicating that it would be easier for consumers to determine if a taxi was legal or not. The Department subsequently agreed to implement the proposal.

The purpose of this exercise is to seek comments from a number of operators on the Department's proposals for the dimensions of the new clear taxi plate to be affixed to roof signage on Taxis licensed under the incoming Taxi Vehicle Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, intended to come into operation in September 2014. The Department intends to consider this input before coming to a decision on which plate dimension to use.

### **ROOF SIGNS**

It is proposed that the roof sign will be required:

- to hold a taxi plate provided by the Department under the new regulations to be affixed to the nearside of the front and offside of the rear of the sign;
- to be a minimum of 140mm tall;
- not to project more than 250mm above the highest part of the car;
- to be a minimum of 750mm wide;
- not to overhang the roof;
- to display to the front on a yellow background in clear and legible black letters the name or trading name of the licensed operator or the word Taxi;
- to display to the rear on a yellow background in clear and legible black letters a telephone number or the word Taxi; and
- to be illuminated internally during hours of darkness to show a steady yellow light to the front and rear.

Further, in relation to those taxis that wish to be licensed as Wheelchair Accessible and, therefore, able to stand for hire at ranks, the following requirements will apply:

- the roof sign shall include a wheelchair symbol (coloured black and to be 140mm tall and wide)

### **PLATES**

Taking account of the proposed roof sign requirements listed above, your views are sought on the size of the three plate sizes listed in Annexes 2, 3 & 4. You will wish to note that Option 2 is the same size as the current front plate and is the Department's preferred option, but views on the other options are welcome.

The content of the plate displayed in the annexes is intended for illustrative purposes only and is subject to change. The wheelchair logo would only be present if the taxi was successfully tested as Wheelchair Accessible.

Whilst I appreciate the very tight timescales, I would be very grateful for your comments to [taxisact@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:taxisact@doeni.gov.uk) by **17:00 on Monday 24 February 2014**.

Many thanks,  
Michael O'Neill

**VEHICLE POLICY BRANCH**

**ANNEX 1**  
PLATING OPTION SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISON



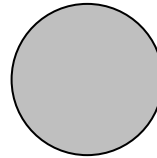
**ANNEX 2**  
119mm x 176mm

# A 1 2 3 4 5

**EXPIRES:** 01 JUN 2016

**VRM:** AB01 CDE

**LICENSED TO CARRY 4 PASSENGERS**



**ANNEX 3**

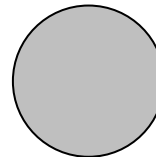
126mm x 215mm

**A12345**

**EXPIRES: 01 JUN 2016**

**VRM: AB01 CDE**

**LICENSED TO CARRY 4 PASSENGERS**



**ANNEX 4**

100mm x 243mm

**A12345**



**LICENSED TO CARRY 4 PASSENGERS**

**AB01 CDE**

**01 JUN 2016**

