



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Assembly Member

16 April 2014

Dear Assembly Member

During the Welsh Conservative debate on bus services on 12 March, I agreed to look into the matter of taxi drivers charging disabled passengers more for their service including how licences are given, and what checks are made on this.

The Regulations governing the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles are non devolved and are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Transport. The Department for Transport has published best practice guidance on taxi and private hire vehicle licensing for use by local authorities in England and Wales.

Overcharging passengers because they are disabled is unlawful. Licensing authorities are required to exercise their function having due regard to the eradication of unlawful discrimination. I have instructed my officials to work with the Welsh Local Government Association and the Equality and Human Rights Commission to investigate this serious matter. I will provide a further report to Members when this work is complete.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Edwina Hart', written in a cursive style.