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for Transport

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From the Secretary of State  
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*D. Howarth*

*6 Dec*

Thank you for the email of 2 November 2017 from your office enclosing correspondence from Guide Dogs UK, about statutory guidance requiring all taxi and minicab drivers to undertake disability equality training.

Taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) services must be accessible to those who rely upon them, and disability awareness training can be effective in equipping drivers with the skills and knowledge to provide all passengers with the assistance they require. The Department is currently considering the responses to the consultation on the draft Accessibility Action Plan which will inform the updated Best Practice Guidance for taxi and PHV licensing authorities. It is the Department's expectation that the guidance will include a recommendation that authorities should use their existing powers to require prospective drivers to complete disability awareness and equality training. There are however no existing powers to give this guidance statutory status.

At the Westminster Hall Debate on the 'Regulation of working conditions in the private hire industry', John Hayes CBE MP announced his intention to set up a working group to consider how PHV and taxi licensing authorities use their powers, and produce focussed recommendations for action. The Task and Finish Group is considering the regulation of the trade as one of its key areas for discussion and will report its findings to the Minister in the new year.

*W. H. Grayling*

**Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**