

Chief Executive's Office		
Date	9/1/15	
Seen by CX		
Referred to		
ACX	Corp Comms	Dem Serv.
GR	SPP	Bus Supp.
Dev	F&R	H&ES
P&L	P&P	Other
Ref	SW 10/1	



Department for
**Regional
 Development**
 www.drdni.gov.uk

Ms Suzanne Wylie
 Chief Executive
 Belfast City Council
 City Hall
 Belfast
 BT1 5GS

Clarence Court
 10-18 Adelaide Street
 Belfast
 BT2 8GB

Tel: 028 9054 0105
 Fax: 028 9054 0028
 Email: private.office@drdni.gov.uk

Your Ref: SW/as
 Our Ref: DRD/COR/1361/2014
 Date: 8 January 2015

Suzanne

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2014 to Mr Danny Kennedy MLA, Minister for Regional Development, regarding the use of bus lanes by registered taxis.

As you may be aware, in 2012 this Department consulted on possible changes to the access of bus lanes by taxis. This consultation was in direct response to a Department of the Environment (DoE) proposal to introduce a single tier taxi licensing regime during 2013.

The DoE legislation, The Taxi Licensing Regulations (NI) 2014, was subsequently made on 9 December 2014 and has since been laid in the Assembly. The proposed Taxi Licence Regulations would see the definition of the existing taxi classifications change. As a result, the legislation, when enacted, will require this Department to amend its bus lane orders to reflect the new taxi definitions. However, we are aware of some political opposition to the regulations, which may see them amended, and until Minister Kennedy sees the final version of the DoE regulations, a final decision in terms of access arrangements for taxis cannot be taken.

Minister Kennedy has asked me to confirm that he will make his decision on taxi access when he has seen the final version of the DoE regulations and in doing so, will take on board all the issues raised during the 2012 consultation process as well as the City Council's viewpoint.

I hope this reply is helpful.

R Galwey

RUTH GALWEY

Private Secretary to Danny Kennedy MLA