



Department
for Transport

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

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London
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Andrew Selous MP
House of Commons
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Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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15 March 2022

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your email of 25 February, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Mr Mark Saccoccio, about the number of taxis operating in Leighton Buzzard. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this issue.

As Mr Saccoccio has highlighted in his letter, lower-tier and unitary authorities are responsible for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing. This includes enforcement of their byelaws for taxis.

Central Bedfordshire Council's taxi byelaws include a byelaw preventing taxi drivers from waiting at taxi stands which are already full as recommended by my Department's best practice guidance for licensing authorities. Drivers who breach this byelaw could be subject to enforcement sanctions which could include a fine or suspension/revocation of their licence. I recommend that Mr Saccoccio works with Central Bedfordshire Council to best utilise these powers.

Regarding Mr Saccoccio's concerns about the impact of taxis and private hire vehicles on the environment, I would reassure him that the Government is directly supporting the taxi and private hire vehicle sector to transition to zero emission vehicles through the Plug in Taxi Grant and the Plug in Car Grant which provides a grant of up to £7,500 and £1,500 respectively.

I appreciate this will not be the response your constituent hoped for but please extend my gratitude to Mr Saccoccio for taking the time to write in with his concerns.

*Yours,
Charlotte*

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON