

From: Hughes, Stephen (ROADS) [<mailto:Stephen.Hughes@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>]

Sent: 03 May 2017 16:30

Subject: Taxis in Bus Lanes - Views Sought

Dear Stakeholder,

On Monday 20 February 2017 the Department initiated a 12 week trial to allow certain taxis to use the bus lanes on the East and West Belfast Rapid Transit routes and the 12 hour (7am – 7pm) bus lanes in the city centre which link the two routes. The taxis being allowed access for the trial are:

- Class A taxis;
- Private hire taxis operating under green plates; and,
- Public hire outside of Belfast operating under white plates.

On the routes in question these taxis can join the other forms of transport which are usually allowed access to bus lanes, that is, buses, bicycles, motorcycles, Class B/Belfast Public hire, and, Class D/Taxi bus services, but only where the adjacent sign indicates the different modes and 'permitted taxi'.

Class C taxis (intended for specialist services e.g. weddings and funerals) have not been permitted access for this trial.

During the trial period the Department is assessing the impact of the taxis on the operation of the bus lanes. This will include the safety of bus lane users, as well as the impact on journey times, vehicle speeds and traffic volumes.

To help it reach a decision on the long term access arrangements for taxis in bus lanes the Department is also committed to seeking views both on:

- the trial itself; and,
- the possible future use of bus lanes in terms of taxi access.

Should you wish to express your views on the matter please use the following on-line survey <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfi-traffic-and-engineering-policy-branch/taxis-in-bus-lanes/>

Alternatively should you wish to provide a more comprehensive response you can do so by e-mailing me at stephen.hughes@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk or by writing to me at the following address:

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We would appreciate responses by the 16 June 2017.

Should you require further explanation or detail please just contact me by return e-mail.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Hughes
Traffic and Development Control Policy Branch