



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

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**From the Permanent Secretary
Peter May**

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Our reference: PSDFI 90/17
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Dear Suzanne

TAXIS IN BUS LANES TRIAL

Thank you for your office's letter dated 5 June 2017 seeking an extension of six months to the recent 12 week bus lane trial which allowed Class A taxis to use the Belfast Rapid Transit bus lanes and its extension to all bus lanes.

You will be aware that we received a range of representations and that there are competing views as to the way forward.

As the end point of the 12 week trial had been determined by the then Minister for Infrastructure, Chris Hazzard MLA following discussions he had with representatives of the taxi industry and the cycling lobby the trial ended as planned on Sunday 14 May 2017.

The Department is currently taking forward work to inform decisions on future taxi access to bus lanes. This work includes analysis of traffic data gathered during the trial to determine its impact on road users and collation of the information received from both our on-line survey and any other related correspondence received since the start of the trial. A link to the survey which is open to 16 June 2017 is provided below as follows: <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfi-traffic-and-engineering-policy-branch/taxis-in-bus-lanes/>

I confirm that the Department will also take into account the views set out in the Council's letter.

Yours ever

Peter

PETER MAY