

The supplier, converter or manufacturer of wheelchair accessible vehicles to the taxis trade.

Date: 07 November 2013
Ref: WAV vehicles
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Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

I understand that you are the supplier, converter or manufacturer of wheelchair accessible vehicles to the taxis trade.

We are currently looking at our accessibility policies for taxis and recently held a taxi demonstration day for our local disability group to look at the various wheelchair accessible vehicles available. We found a number of access difficulties and conflicts between various accessible vehicles, individual impairments and wheelchair models. For instance we found that two manual wheelchairs could not fit into the Peugeot Premier or the VW Caddy max despite being what we assumed were fairly compact chairs and not particularly oversized.

Our local disability group has also requested that we only licence vehicles with single ramps and in particular rear loading vehicles. However, we were informed that the Ford Torneo & Renault Traffic is only supplied with parallel ramps which are unsuitable for many powered wheelchairs.

To help us assess the many types of vehicle available it would be very useful for any vehicles that you supply, convert or manufacture if you could explain

- (a) What wheelchairs each of your vehicles is designed for, ie The London Cab for the reference wheelchair, the invicta, harrier or badger wheelchairs etc.
- (b) what wheelchairs can be accommodated by these vehicles
- (c) if any of your vehicles are available as electric or low emission vehicles
- (d) which vehicles are able to load wheelchairs from the rear, side or both
- (e) is a swivel seat available
- (f) Which vehicles can only have parallel ramps and if so why?
- (g) What, if any, type of crash testing and safety testing have your vehicle modifications been subject to



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We would also be interested to know what liaison goes on between wheelchair designers, manufacturers and vehicle converters at the design stage.

Thank you in advance

Yours sincerely

Cllr Stephanie Powell
Chair, Licensing Committee
Disability Champion

