



# Home Office

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17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

## PROTECTION OF FREEDOMS BILL: CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS

During the Committee stage debate on Amendment 74 (Official Report, 6 December 2011, columns 677 to 680), I promised to write to you once the Government had made a decision as to whether taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) drivers should be made eligible for enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks.

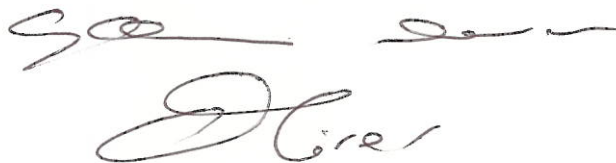
I am pleased to be able to inform you that we have decided that taxi and PHV drivers should be made eligible for enhanced checks. This is because the non-conviction information which is contained only in an enhanced certificate may be relevant to a licensing authority's decision about whether to issue or renew a licence. This change is important both for the safety of the travelling public and in order to maintain the public's confidence in drivers. I know that it will be warmly welcomed.

We intend in fact to go further and to make available to licensing authorities information about whether an actual or prospective driver is on one or both of the barred lists maintained by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. In most cases, someone on a barred list would not be legally prevented from doing this work, so the licensing authority would be able to use its discretion in making decisions.

As I indicated during the debate, it is not necessary to use primary legislation to make these changes. We shall, rather, make the changes using statutory instruments and we shall lay those before both Houses at the earliest opportunity.

I am copying this letter to Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, Lord Harris of Haringey, Baroness Hamwee, Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, the Earl of

Erroll, David Hanson MP and Diana Johnson MP, and placing a copy in the House Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hanson', written in a cursive style.

**Lord Henley**