

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS)

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Tahniah Ahmed
Department for Transport
Great Minister House
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(Via email: taxis@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Our ref:
2016/005

Date:
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Dear Ms Ahmed,

CONSULTATION ON SECTIONS 165 AND 167 OF THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

The Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland are grateful for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation and would wish to lodge the following comments:

- (1) Annex A as attached to your e-mail of 1 November shows the Form proposed for the Exemption Certificate in England and Scotland. Members of the committee feel that the font used on the Notice is extremely small and would be difficult to read by disabled people, especially those who are partially sighted.
- (2) As the font is small could an easily recognisable symbol be developed to show at a glance that the driver holds an exemption and cannot provide assistance to wheelchair users?
- (3) Members of the Committee feel that a photograph of the driver should appear on the Notice of Exemption as is the case with Blue Badge holders. The Notice of Exemption is open to misuse without it.
- (4) Although the exemption notice clearly states that the driver is exempt from providing mobility assistance for passengers in wheelchairs, Section 160 (1) (a) requires the taxi/PHC driver to make it possible for disabled people "to get in and out of taxis in safety". Assistance may be required for disabled people other than those in wheelchairs and it has to be made clear that the exemption does not apply in these circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

ANNE MACLEAN