

West Dunbartonshire Taxi Trade Association

Support Accessibility For Everyone

C/o 107 Main Street
Alexandria
G83 0NX

APPENDIX 3

David Rooney
West Dunbartonshire Council
Council Offices
Garshake Road
Dumbarton
G82 3PU

20 SEP 2007

19th September 2007

Dear Mr Rooney

I write on behalf of the West Dunbartonshire Taxi Trade Association.

Further to our conversation on Tuesday 18th September 2007, I can confirm that the members of the Taxi Trade Association have agreed that Leven District and Dumbarton & Alexandria TOA will have a total of 23 wheelchair accessible vehicles on the road by April 2008.

At present, there are 8 in DATOA with another one coming "online" in the next two weeks, with more to follow.

Leven District have 3, with the owner, Jim Colquhoun giving his assurance that another 9 vehicles will be on the road as the plates/cars become due for renewal over the coming 6 months.

These vehicles are being sponsored internally by an agreed levy on all drivers in each company, to offset the additional cost of purchase and operation.

On a personal note, I would like to inform you of the current difficulty in getting suitably adapted vehicles; for example, I myself had a Ford on order from a specialist supplier from Easter, with an expected delivery date of 10 weeks. The supplier now informs me that Ford is not able to fill the customer orders within acceptable timescales. I have had to change my supplier and manufacturer, and still have another 5 weeks at least to wait.

On the cheaper vehicles, such as Fiat Doblo and Ford Transit Connect, specialist suppliers in the area and throughout the country are stating 3 to 4 months delivery, as the vehicles are very scarce. Manufacturers are concentrating on the high volume sales models for cargo use, rather than producing special orders needed to meet the requirements of the local regulations. I am happy to discuss this further with yourself or at a licensing meeting, if you need more information.

Yours sincerely
On behalf of West Dunbartonshire Taxi Trade Association



David Thomson
Chairman