

TAXIDRIVERS — INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

5622. Hon Ken Travers to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to the Minister for Transport's claims of a new zero tolerance approach to inappropriate behaviour by taxi drivers, and ask —

- (1) Will drivers who have previously inappropriately touched or engaged in inappropriate sexual behaviour towards passengers be removed from the industry?
- (2) If yes to (1), what action is the Department of Transport taking to review past allegations of inappropriate behaviour to ensure these drivers are immediately removed from the industry?
- (3) If no to (1), why are drivers who have previously engaged in inappropriate behaviour not being removed from the industry?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Department of Transport advises:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Transport has conducted a review of all taxi drivers with previous criminal convictions. Each licence holder was affected under the 'good character' provisions. Where the driver did not meet the good character test, the T extension was cancelled. In previous incidents when there was no criminal conviction and the ability to call witnesses and/or present evidence is limited, details are kept on file and forms part of the good character test if future complaints are received.

As at 17 June 2012, the Department of Transport has cancelled 38 and suspended 23 T extensions since 1 January 2012.
- (3) Not applicable.