

TAXIDRIVERS — BEHAVIOUR

**123. Hon KEN TRAVERS to the minister representing the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Minister for Transport's answer to question without notice 104 asked last week.

- (1) If being charged with possession of a smoking implement or trespass does not result in the automatic suspension or cancellation of a T extension—taxi extension—can the minister explain what type of criminal conduct will result in automatic suspension or cancellation of a T extension, as outlined in a letter to taxidrivers?
- (2) Does the Department of Transport have a process in place to ensure that taxidrivers are aware of any allegations made directly to the police regarding any criminal activity by a taxidriver, even in instances when the Western Australia Police elect not to investigate or press charges?
- (3) If yes to (2), is there is a formal written agreement or understanding on the exchange of this type of information, and will the minister table it?
- (4) If no to (3), will the minister outline the process that is in place to ensure that the Department of Transport is aware of all allegations made about taxidrivers?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Transport advises —

- (1) Despite opposition and criticism by the member to many aspects of the state government's reform plans for the WA taxi industry, the Liberal–National government is committed to supporting and improving the industry, which was long neglected by the previous Labor government. It should be noted that unacceptable behaviour by a few individual taxidrivers can tarnish the reputation of the whole taxi industry and undermine the good work the vast majority of taxidrivers provide to the community. Taxidrivers have obligations under the Western Australian Taxi Driver Code of Conduct and the Road Traffic Act 1974. Furthermore, parts of the Road Traffic (Authorisation to Drive) Regulations 2008 stipulate that as the holder of a T extension, the driver must be a person of good character in order to operate as a taxidriver. Cases will be assessed according to the criteria established in these codes, acts and regulations.
- (2) Yes.
- (3)–(4) A formal agreement is being developed.