

October 16<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Take a break....It's the law

The Commission for Taxi Regulation and Road Safety Authority today launched a joint campaign targeted at members of the Small Public Service Vehicle Industry to highlight the dangers of driver fatigue. The radio campaign on national and local radio along with print advertising will remind drivers of taxis, hackneys and limousines of the risks they run if they are driving while tired as well as their legal obligations in relation to the number of hours they drive.

Kathleen Doyle, Commission for Taxi Regulation said: 'We want to remind all drivers of taxis, hackneys and limousines of the dangers posed by driver fatigue. Drivers should always put their own safety first, they owe this to themselves, their passengers and their families. The law is there for a reason – to protect drivers. When you apply for a SPSV drivers licence you give a formal undertaking not to drive a taxi, hackney or limousine for more than 11 hours in any one day in any three consecutive days. Driving while overtired is dangerous and is breaking the law.'

Ms Doyle added that the 11 hour per day limit is reasonable if properly managed. 'It's a question of taking rest breaks at the right times, the times that suit the driver in terms of their particular business patterns. We want everyone to wake up to the dangers of driver fatigue. Indeed, members of the public should be aware of this too and use their local taxi or hackney service rather than drive while overtired.'

Commenting on the campaign Noel Brett of the Road Safety Authority said: 'It is a well established fact that driver fatigue can be as dangerous as driving while over the legal alcohol limit. It is also known that driver fatigue is a contributory factor in one to five drivers' deaths in Ireland. We are delighted to participate in this joint campaign with the Commission for Taxi Regulation to remind all professional drivers of the dangers of staying too long at the wheel and their responsibility as professional drivers.'

### Editors Notes:

More information on driver tiredness can be found in the RSA's booklet 'Driver Tiredness – The Facts' and can be downloaded from the RSA website

<http://www.rsa.ie/publication/publication/upload/Driver%20Fatigue%205%20FA.pdf>

A copy of the RSA's research on driver fatigue can also be downloaded from

<http://www.rsa.ie/publication/publication/upload/AmarachResearchJan20090LongJourneysDriverTiredness.pdf>