

Press Release

Public Consultation on the Small Public Service Vehicle Industry *Service Users and suppliers invited to make submissions*

(23 March 2009) The Commission for Taxi Regulation is now inviting submissions from service providers, service users, key stakeholders and any other interested parties on the recommendations of the Economic Review of the SPSV industry carried out by Goodbody Economic Consultants earlier this month. A full copy of the report can be view on www.taxiregulator.ie

Goodbody were instructed to undertake a review by the Commission in order to provide information to the Commission on trends in a number of areas, including supply and demand, earnings, working hours and the impact of liberalisation, regulation and reform and how the provision of services are made available to consumers. The Commission will use these findings to help inform policy in coming years.

The review made a number of key recommendations to the Commission including; further improvement of standards with fast-tracking of their implementation; introduction of a quality mark; extra enforcement; greater provision of service for people with disabilities; extra research and provision of information; recording of working hours; incentivised dispatch operator affiliation and usage of new technology.

Commissioner for Taxi Regulation Kathleen Doyle commented; "The Goodbody report shows an industry in transition, highlighting significant changes since liberalisation in 2000. The report states that the current regulatory model should be continued and there are useful recommendations on actions the Commission can take to further improve the industry for operators and consumers alike. Clearly, these will have an impact on both these groups and we are keen to hear their views before moving forward. We are therefore asking all interested parties to read the report, and the recommendations in particular and send us their views. The Commission will then take these into account when continuing its programme of reform"

Submissions marked "Submission on Economic Review" can be made in writing addressed to; Commission for Taxi Regulation, 35 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, or by e-mail to Commission@taxiregulator.ie The latest date for receipt of submissions is 5.00 pm on Tuesday 5 May 2009.

Ends