

Gary Dickinson

Chairman Of Lincoln Taxi Ass.

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To whome it might concern.

Having been a private hire driver for many years and in the last two years been registered disabled I feel I might be of assistance to you with the decision-making dilemma reference disabled.

I along with Mr S Miller started to put wheelchair carrying private hire cars on approximately 14 years ago. This was to the great delight of many people who in their words struggled to get about. This option of alternative cars along with extra training we feel is necessary does as you can imagine not come cheap. One of the major problems is finding the right people to undertake the operation of said cars. This problem is getting harder all the time, contrary to public belief the drivers are sometimes struggling to achieve minimum wage that is after they have paid to get their badges and pay for there courses.

It takes a very tolerant and patient type of person due to all the time waiting around. This is due mainly to the fact that most people wishing to use us require you to collect them in a lot of cases push them and then secure and stow their mode of transport. On a lot of jobs, we have to fetch the people from wards and rooms in hospitals and nursing homes. On other occasion's we have to clean and sanitise the equipment after it has been used, so all cars carry cleaning products and sanitiser. A lot of people travelling have terminal illnesses along with incontinence issues.

I have spoken to the drivers that provide this service and they have stated if we cannot recoup at least some of the Cost Incurred, then sadly we will no longer be in a position supply this service to our customers.

Being a disabled person with mobility issues I assumed I would perhaps be approached by the people who represent me at local councillor level as to what I might like. Once again if there is to be consultation to this will I or indeed anybody else with mobility issues be consulted?

Your Sincerely



G Dickinson