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**Charlesworth, Tom (City of Lincoln Council)**

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**From:** Douglas Lewins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 31 August 2017 23:31  
**To:** Charlesworth, Tom (City of Lincoln Council)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Wheelchair users and cabs

Tom

I understand from Healthwatch that you are seeking views on this issue.

I was, before my early retirement, Head of Equality and Diversity for the Metropolitan Police Authority. I continue to be an Independent Advisor for British Transport Police.

It is important that Members are not sidetracked by the expected upset of those in the taxi companies. Most firms should be pleased to use this opportunity to show their businesses in a good light as well as to get repeat business. It is also for Members not to be seen to be facilitating discrimination against disabled people and, indeed, to be encouraging the ability of disabled people to engage as fully as possible in life. It is interesting to note that the list of impacts of a decision to make a list or not, as advised in the communication from Healthwatch, does not mention the effects on disabled people who use a wheelchair. Surely, that should be a primary consideration. In considering the issue, the Members should also be operating within the policy that the Council has around Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Discrimination. Under the Act, decision-makers are under a personal duty, to have due regard of the need to protect and promote the interests of persons with 'protected characteristics'. These include disability. Your own policy has as an objective for the Council:

- Make a positive difference for our communities. When we review or introduce a new policy or activity, commission, begin a new project, decommission or help communities to do things for themselves, we will always assess the impact on people with protected characteristics. This analysis helps us to make informed decisions. Has an impact assessment been done on the effects on disabled people?

Regards

Most Rev Douglas Lewins

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