

Stephen Hickey, Senior Staff Officer,  
Administration / Traffic Advisory Group,  
Dublin City Council,  
Environment and Transportation Department,  
Civic Offices,  
Wood Quay,  
Dublin 8.



11<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## Re: Taxi Drivers – Area of Operation

Dear Mr. Hickey,

I refer to your letter, on behalf of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee of Dublin City Council, seeking information on why certain taxi drivers are licenced to operate in multiple counties, including Dublin, where other taxi drivers are limited to Dublin only.

Taxi regulation is governed by the Taxi Regulation Act 2013 and the Taxi Regulation (Small Public Service Vehicle) Regulations 2015 (SI 33 of 2015). Under that legislation drivers of taxis have to hold a specific licence to drive small public service vehicles. To gain such a licence, the applicant must pass an Industry Knowledge test and an Area Knowledge test, collectively known as the SPSV Entry Test. Garda vetting is also part of that process. The Area Knowledge test is specific to a county selected by the applicant.

The holder of such licence is then entitled to stand at taxi ranks, and to accept on-street hiring, in the county in respect of which he/she has successfully passed the Area Knowledge test. Each licence holder is also permitted to sit the Area Knowledge test for additional counties where he/she may wish to operate. If the applicant is successful, he/she is then permitted to also “stand or ply for hire” in that additional county or counties. Accordingly, a taxi driver may hold authorisation to accept on-street hiring for more than one county. There are currently no plans to change this system.

I trust that the above information clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Creegan,  
Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation.