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To the Committee,

I am writing regarding one of our vehicles YJ07 KNR. We previously had a private hire plate, PHV050, registered to this vehicle but due to an issue with the automatic gearbox we had to take it off the road.

We informed Andrew Smith who advised us the plate would be put on hold until we could resolve the problem. We spoke to Andrew regularly to confirm that the vehicle would be able to resume its plate once it was roadworthy, without mention of time limit.

We contacted several Renault garages and gearbox specialists but despite their efforts and considerable cost to ourselves we were unable to find a solution. The only possible conclusion was to convert the automatic gearbox to a manual. We then had to source a replacement gearbox, at further cost, and allocate enough time for our mechanics to be able to complete the change.

The work has recently been finished, the vehicle is now ready to use and has passed both an MOT and road worthiness taxi test.

On contacting yourselves we were advised that the plate has now been allocated to another firm and the vehicle is too old to begin the process again.

Although the vehicle has passed the usual age limit for a new private hire plate we feel it is in such a condition as we would like it to be considered for private hire use, especially considering the circumstances. With no contact from the licensing department we were under the impression that we would be able to retain the private hire plate once the vehicle was in a suitable condition for use.

As previously stated the vehicle has recently passed an MOT and taxi test, has very low mileage, 40,000 and has been maintained regularly by ourselves. The vehicle can also be presented at the Civic Centre for your inspection.

If we are unable to obtain a private hire plate we will be forced to sell the vehicle, at a loss to ourselves, which we feel is unfair as we received no warning as to the outcome of the original plate. If a time limit had been stated we would have ensured the conversion had taken place within that time frame but without notification we could not have known we would lose the plate.

We hope you will consider the vehicle for private hire use and look forward to hearing from you.

Unfortunately I am on holiday on 21st July but my General Manager, Helen O'Leary, will attend in my place and present the vehicle for inspection.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Wallbank
Managing Director