

DE/2026-028– Freedom of Information Request

Request:

I would be grateful if you could provide a list of the taxi firms the department recently negotiated with regarding school transport provision and whether the negotiations were undertaken on a collective basis or with each individual firm directly.

If you are unable to list each firm for commercial confidentiality reasons, confirmation of the number of firms and their geographical locations will suffice. I would also like to know if there is a difference between the rates agreed for internal combustion engine cars and electric vehicles and the percentage difference in the rates and also whether the taxi firms are now expected to transition to electric vehicles over and agreed timeframe, as part of the deal struck with them.

Department Response:

I refer to your request under the above legislation requesting the following information:

- A list of the taxi firms the Department of Education recently negotiated with regarding school transport provision, and whether the negotiations were undertaken on a collective basis or with each individual firm directly.
- If there is a difference between the rates agreed for internal combustion engine cars and electric vehicles and the percentage difference in the rates and also whether the taxi firms are now expected to transition to electric vehicles over and agreed timeframe, as part of the deal struck with them.

I wish to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, the information you have requested is not held by this Department. The operation and delivery of home to school transport is the responsibility of the Education Authority,

which includes procurement, management and negotiations in relation to contracts held with taxi operators for the provision of school transport.

I would recommend that you contact the EA who may hold this information. You can request information from the EA by email using the following address infogov@eani.org.uk