

**Implementation of Section 167 & Medical Exemption Process –
Schedule of Consultation Responses and Working Party Comments
Consultation Period 30th May 2018 to 27th July 2018**

	Consultee details	Consultee Comments	Working Party Assessment	Working Party Recommendation
1	Crossroads Care Central & East Gloucestershire	<p>We are concerned that these new rules, contrary to improving services for local wheelchair users could make things worse. Is there not a danger that taxi firms will just not “sign up” or not have “wheelchair adaptable/friendly” vehicles as the financial burden and litigation risk is too high?</p> <p>Our concerns are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taxis might have to recoup more money to cover the costs of an adapted vehicle 2. Ongoing maintenance and test E.G. LOLER cost taxi firms more 3. Risk assessments will be needed for sitting in front seat for things like seizures, spasms, drooping 4. Manual handling training to move client and wheelchair. 5. Training staff to push wheelchairs safely down kerbs etc. 6. The consequence of this will be no accessible taxis 	<p>The new rules are laid down in Sections 165 and 167 of the Equality Act 2010 which were commenced by the Government in April 2017. The Government has made it clear that, although it is not mandatory, it expects all Local Authorities to adopt Section 167 and to publish a list of all ‘designated’ wheelchair accessible taxis. This then places a legal duty on drivers of vehicles on the list and makes it an offence if they refuse to carry passengers in wheelchairs, don't give them appropriate assistance or charge them extra. Government guidance states that the adoption by Local Authorities of the new rules will send a clear signal that it is not acceptable to discriminate on grounds of disability.</p> <p>Stroud District Council does not have a policy making it mandatory for all taxis and private hire vehicles to be wheelchair accessible.</p> <p>The new duty should not make any additional financial burdens or obligations on those existing operators of wheelchair accessible taxis and private hire vehicles</p>	No amendment required

Appendix B

			as they should, as a matter of good practice, already be acting in accordance with those duties identified in the Equality Act 2010. Therefore, it is not anticipated that adopting the new rules will lead to a reduction in the number of wheel chair accessible taxis and private hire vehicles or put off new applicants for such vehicles.	
2	Rodborough Parish Council	At its meeting on 18th June 2018, Rodborough Parish Council resolved to support this initiative and welcomes the introduction of this long-delayed action.	Comment noted	No amendment requirement
3	Stroud Town Council	We considered the proposal at a recent Committee meeting and although there was no objection, it was felt the carrying of assistance dogs should be included in the proposal, as stated in the equality act.	Other sections of the Equality Act 2010 were commenced in October 2010 including the legal duty for taxi and private hire drivers to carry assistance dogs if requested and to do so without additional charge. Stroud District Council's current policy already makes it clear that the Council has a zero tolerance of drivers who refuse to abide to this duty.	No amendment requirement
4	Stonehouse Town Council	Stonehouse Town Council considered its response to the above consultation at a Regeneration and Environment Committee meeting yesterday. The Committee agreed to support this positive proposal.	Comment noted	No amendment requirement