EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Taxi Operators Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

SR No. 303

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under sections 1(4), 2(5), 3(2), (3) and (7) and 56(1) of the Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The making of a Statutory Rule to implement new taxi operator licensing requirements under the provisions of the Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

3. Background

3.1. The Regulations introduce a new requirement for additional information to be carried in a taxis providing a tour service. The additional information required shall be recorded on a form "a journey form", a hard copy of which must be carried in the vehicle throughout the period of the journey

4. Consultation

4.1. The Department consulted on proposals for a Taxi Licence and Powers of Seizure Regulations within Northern Ireland commenced on 4 July 2011 and closed on 30 September 2011. During this period the Department met with stakeholders and received written responses from those consulted. Responses representing the views of over 3000 people were received.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. The introduction of taxi operator licensing was assessed with regards to its impact on s75 groups. No adverse impact on any s75 group was identified.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment was produced which indicated that the benefits of introducing the new Regulations outweighed the costs for the Northern Ireland taxi industry.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Not applicable.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The proposals have been scrutinised to ensure compliance with s24. They are compatible with Convention rights, Community Law and do not result in discrimination.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.