

APPENDIX B

----- Original Message -----

From: ChrisatCJWTaxi@aol.com

To: npha@btconnect.com

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 8:07 PM

Subject: Fwd: Ford Statement

Dear National Private Hire Association

Please find below statement from Ford Motor Company regarding the use of Ford vehicles as taxis. Ford Motor Company will not be commenting on the matter further.

"The Ford Galaxy, as a 7 seater passenger vehicle, complies with the legal requirements in Europe and fulfils our more stringent in-house requirements.

The vehicle has 3 seating rows to transport 6 passengers, as with other vans having 3 rows of seats. Other comparable products have no additional doors for the third seat row. Second seat row folding or seat adjustment systems are used to allow third seat row occupants to leave the vehicle in the event of a vehicle collision."

With regard to the more detailed questions from the NPHA regarding vehicle Type Approval and the impact of subsequent changes to the vehicle, it can be stated that Type Approval requirements apply at the time of vehicle initial sale. Subsequent changes can be made to the vehicle, but these would still have to comply with UK Construction and Use regulations. Ford Motor Company cannot comment on the feasibility or acceptability of any such changes to the vehicle as these would be outside the design criteria of the vehicle, and, as such, the vehicle would never have been tested in these configurations. The Galaxy was conceived as a regular passenger car, and has never been designed, tested or type approved with specific taxi regulations in mind. It appears that various local authorities have set their own criteria for perceived comfort, space and safety of occupants, and use these when considering the number of passengers for which any vehicle can be approved as a taxi. Ford Motor Company is therefore unable to comment individually on these regulations.

Kind regards

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