

62205 Taxi Transport to Schools

Can you explain to me why there is such an increase in children requiring a taxi to school this year and if any measures are being taken to protect the other children?

The need for school transport is assessed through a Travel Allocation Panel comprising colleagues from Education, Planning and Commissioning and Transport. Transport arrangements are allocated based on individual assessed need and suitability. There are a limited number of transport providers able to provide accessible minibus transport and availability of these vehicles is limited. Where suitable group transport is not available, alternative arrangements, including taxis may be required to ensure pupils can access education safely.

I appreciate that those children coming/going by taxi are escorted by the drivers in hi viz jackets but what about the other children?

Schools are responsible for undertaking local risk assessments relating to pupil drop off and pick up arrangements, including managing pedestrian and vehicle movement around the school where required.

Also it does worry me that if this increase in taxi use for school transport is multiplied across Edinburgh, the cost must be enormous. Who pays for this?

School transport costs including taxi provision where required, are funded through Education, Children and Justice Services.