

From: [REDACTED]
To: [taxiinquiry](#)
Subject: Submission on Taxi Reforms
Date: Monday, 10 June 2019 3:57:33 PM

To Whom It May Concern,
Below is our submission to the Taxi Inquiry regarding Taxi Reforms. We allow our submission to be public but ask that our names are not identified publicly.

How the Taxi Reforms Affected Myself and My Family

[REDACTED]

2nd June, 2019

Re: Taxi Reforms

To the Economy and Infrastructure Committee,

I started to drive a taxi in 1962. Myself and my family have been in the taxi industry from that date until September 2017 (55 years), when wrongful legislation forced us out of the industry.

I worked hard as a taxi driver on a night shift. I worked until the very late morning for an extra dollar. My wife was new in the country, alone, with no English language. She was very afraid for many a night and cried to sleep. With hard work (60 – 70 hours per week) and hard savings, through those years, we managed to purchase our first licence. As time went on, we bought 3 more licences. I was very keen to maintain my cars very clean. Through those years, me and my wife, we have washed and cleaned quite a bit of vomit and urine from the elderly, the sick and the drunk. This was not an investment but our life, our job and our business.

Through the years, we purchased 4 licences. These licences provided to my family a certain standard of living (which we worked hard for). We thought and we believed that it would give us a certain standard of retirement and would assist us through to our old age, and then pass onto our children. The revocation of these licences changed everything we planned for our retirement. It had an enormous impact on our lives, not only for myself, my wife, but also, our children and grandchildren.

For the last 15 years, myself and my wife were self-funded retirees, using these hard earned licences which we worked hard to pay off, as leases and our income on retirement. The revocation of these licences in September 2017 was an enormous devastation for myself, my wife and my children. From self-funded retirees, we have become Government pensioners. This causes us a great deal of stress, devastation and loss, mentally and physically, every day of our lives. Financially, it is causing us an enormously low standard of living. Being always self-provided, that is causing us a very stressful life.

At the age of 77, in 2010, I was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive skin cancer and prostate cancer, which took a lot on my health. I fought hard to beat it. I had extensive radiation and chemotherapy to combat the disease for well over a year. At the time, we thanked our lucky stars the licences continued to provide an income, and a way to pay for the medication and treatment I needed to survive. We believed our many, many years of tremendously hard work had paid off. We had not once received any pension or Government handout, not one cent had been received from anywhere but our own hard

efforts; our taxes had always been paid; we believed that our solid efforts were worth it in the long run. With approximately 55 years of experience in this industry, we believed that our retirement was safe. We worked extremely hard to ensure that we could enjoy our later years in reasonable comfort. We worked extremely hard so that we could slow down at an age when we could no longer work and not rely on a Government pension. I continually live in fear with each check up that this cruel disease should return and our current funds would not cover costs for treatment. My biggest worry is that I will not be able to support my family or myself, especially if my illness returns. If legislation not revoked our licences, we would be enjoying the fruits of our labour.

Our stress in every day living has passed onto all the family. We applied to the Fairness Fund, spending hours and hours completing forms with loads of personal information and writing letters with the help of our children, but were rejected. We simply do not understand how licences can be revoked without any compensation. They should have been bought outright, as any business would have been. Not just removed. It's not as if we went bankrupt.

After driving a taxi for so many years, working hard to purchase our own licences, paying them off, we are now completely out of the industry, having our licences removed through no fault of our own.

From the leases we were earning \$24 000 per licence per year (a total of 96 000), slowly reduced to \$1400 per month (on a month to month basis as some months were unpaid). Then, the licences was revoked and that's it. No more income and had no choice but to apply for a Government pension. We only receive half a pension after all those years of hard work. Our self-funded Superannuation is closed because we have no money coming in. The licences supposed to be our Super.

Regards,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.