

**AMENDMENT TO BYE-LAWS GOVERNING HORSE DRAWN  
CARRIAGES**

**SUBMISSION TO DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

**Councillor Claire O' Regan:**

I note the proposed draft bye laws for horse drawn carriages are being drawn up and discussed briefly with Councillor Montague a provision for rest breaks for the horses. I was in contact with the SPCA about this and was advised that there is a provision in the issuing of the licence for the carriage that no horse should work more than eight hours, split into four hours, with a break, and then a further four hours. Of course this is going to be extremely difficult to monitor and the SPCA advise that they are usually only in a position to act on an alleged breach where they receive a complaint from a member of the public that an animal has been working for longer than that. Their view is that some carriage owners are responsible and treat their animals humanely, but some sub-lease the carriage, particularly to young boys, and the conditions for the animals can deteriorate in those circumstances.

Would it be possible, even as a deterrent, to include in the draft bye laws, a provision that no animal should work more than a set number of hours? This should be on foot of consultation with the SPCA and the licensing office.

**Tim O' Sullivan, Dublin City Council:**

This seems a reasonable suggestion. The Killarney Bye Laws include some provision for animal welfare and also restrictions on who can actually operate the carriage. I would hope for a good debate and response at public consultation stage. There is a great concern for animal welfare among the public and if we advertise the consultation process well I would expect a lively response. It should be noted that we will be the licensing office once these bye laws are in place.