

**DESPITE THE DESIGNER LOOK, LIZ SAYS SHE'S A COMBATS GIRL AT HEART**



□ **SHOPPING SPREE:** RTE's *Off the Rails* fashion show presenters Fiona McShane and Liz Bonnin get in a spot of practice on Grafton Street

# TV fashion girl brought to heel

**T**V FASHION presenter Liz Bonnin admits that high heels and designer dresses weren't her top priority before her telly career. "I've always been a real trainers and combats girl," admits Liz, who co-presents RTE's *Off the Rails* show with Fiona McShane.

**CAREFUL**  
"When I started presenting *Telly Bingo* the stylist was putting me in dresses and shoes that I couldn't even walk in. "Now that I can actually walk in high heels, I've started to wear them a lot," she says. Do the duo follow their own fashion advice — or stick to old reliables? I managed to nab the trendy twosome to see what's on the rails in their wardrobes. Fiona would be quite

**By CAROLINE MORAHAN**  
happy top to toe in black. "We have to wear bright things for the camera. Otherwise I'd probably be in black all the time." Do they splash out on sprees to keep up with the trends? Fiona stays practical. "I think with trends you have to be a bit careful. "I think good fashion sense is manipulating a look that suits you instead of hunting down the latest fad." Liz doesn't support mad spending either. "I don't go on mad sprees. I never

have actually. Generally I would shop for a season." So where do the girls go for a dose of retail therapy? "I don't have a favourite shop," says Liz. "Sometimes I see something lovely on the show. If it's reasonable enough I just get it. The last thing I bought was a '70s style stripey polo neck from Warehouse for 30 quid." When it comes to shopping, Liz won't waste any time. "I wish I was a better bargain hunter but after about an hour I just get really stressed out."

# Hackneys drive for new licences

**H**ACKNEY drivers are to throw down the gauntlet to the Government over delays in putting new taxis on the streets by applying for 2,000 licences this month.

Dublin's taxi famine could be ended by a stroke of a pen from the Minister for the Environment, according to the Secretary of the National Hackney Drivers Association, Christopher Humphries.

A survey of the demand for licences among hackney drivers is expected to be concluded next week on November 14.

**CHALLENGED**

"We will be presenting the Minister with the details and we are confident that there is now no obstacle to him issuing new licences," said Mr Humphries, whose group is conducting the survey.

He believes that the recent High Court decision that the Government has no power to limit the number of taxi licences won't be challenged.

According to hackney drivers, they are the ready-made solution to the taxi crisis — thousands of drivers with their



By **BEN QUINN**

own car, insurance and knowledge of the streets.

The Department of the Environment is keeping its cards close to its chest in terms of whether it will appeal the ruling however.

A spokesperson said that the legal implications of the ruling were still being considered.

The Irish Taxi Drivers Federation has also meanwhile not ruled out challenging the court ruling, but is still mulling over exactly what it means. "The judgement is anything but clear

and there seems to be different opinions about what it means," said John Usher of the Federation.

"If the licences were to become available, they would not just be solely for hackneys and it would be regulations which would decide who gets them.

"If there was to be no control over the numbers of taxis, then we would consider appealing."

It's therefore unclear if the hackney applications would succeed and if they did, how much they would have to pay.

**COMPLAINTS**

The Government had originally planned to offer second plates to existing licence holders at £1,500 each, before that initiative was scrapped by the High Court.

Licences for wheelchair accessible cabs were available for £200 although the specially fitted vehicles cost £30-35,000.

Irate members of the public have meanwhile been calling the *Evening Herald* to complain about long queues for taxis as the bad weather continues.

One woman told of waiting outside Heuston Station on Sunday night for hours in the pouring rain along with 400 other people.

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