

Summary Responses to the Statutory Consultation on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle and Private Hire Operator's Fees 2023

Objections	Comments
<p>Response 1 (Taxi Trade) Please do not increase the fees as the cost of living is already chocking as it is. Many thanks</p>	<p>s.70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that the council can charge fees to cover the costs associated with undertaking inspections, providing hackney stands and reasonable administrative costs associated with issuing and controlling these licences.</p> <p>The JPPC took a decision in 2017 that fees should be set on a cost neutral basis.</p> <p>The proposed cost of a new hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence has increased from £282 to £307 over the past six years an increase of only 8.9%. This £25 increase in monetary terms equates to 48p per week for an annual licence.</p> <p>The proposed cost of renewing a vehicle licence has decreased from £282 in 2019/20 to £273 in 2024/25.</p>
<p>Response 2 (Taxi Trade) I strongly disagree that charges should be going up especially in light of ongoing increases in general cost of living</p>	<p>See comments to response 1.</p>
<p>Response 3 (Taxi Trade) I think its not a good idea to increase the fee because the cost of living has already gone high and people cannot afford to pay another price increase.</p>	<p>See comments to response 1.</p>
<p>Response 4 (Taxi Trade) I just want to say that we need to stay where we are right now, my vote is NO(No increase) Many thanks!</p>	<p>See comments to response 1.</p>

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<p>Response 5: (Taxi Trade)</p> <p>Having just read the proposed tariff increase, I am deeply concerned with the actions made (by error or intent) by the licensing team in contradiction to the information issued to the trade described in item 2. The error in item 1 is of equal worry as it would seem that the data the PPP is working from is inaccurate.</p> <p>1) There is an error in the price 'increase of 6.7% which was in line with CPI at the end of August 2023.'</p> <p>This is incorrect, the quoted CPI for august 2023 from the ONS is 6.3%. I appreciate that this may seem insignificant as it means that the new fee is only £1 out but this is then a compounded cost. I have attached the image later in this email as evidence</p> <p>2) The decision to remove the Driver licences from the consultation.</p> <p>The trade were notified of the proposed cost increases to the Driver licenses on the 23rd October 2023 and the trade questioned the proposed fees as they included training that the council, to-date, has been unable to provide. The specific question was that as</p>	<p>Please find the responses to the trade set out below.</p> <p>Please see link to ONS data which states that the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 6.7% in the 12 months to August 2023, down from 6.8% in July.</p> <p>It was CPIH which rose by 6.3% and the report that went to JPPC in October included an hourly rate figure based on CPI.</p> <p>Consumer price inflation, UK - Office for National Statistics</p> <p>With respect to the inclusivity of the fees for training courses we are now looking into this issue in detail including examining any legacy issues.</p>
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<p>the licensing team had been intending to bring this in house for over a year and had been unable to do so, was there a provision for the council to issue refunds if these went through.</p> <p>Moira Fraser, with Julia O'Brien in attendance, stated that this should be brought up in the consultation process but this item has now been removed from the consultation process. Can you please confirm why this item has been removed from the current consultation process</p> <p>and when the items raised by the trade on this matter will be addressed?</p>	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to consult on a specific set of fees under Section 70 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Council is required when variations to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and private hire operator's fees are proposed.</p> <p>The Council is not required to consult on the remainder of the discretionary fees that are set. The trade were advised that even though those fees were not included in the statutory consultation that they could still make representations on this matter during this statutory consultation process at the Taxi Trade meeting in October 2023. The drivers' fees were therefore not removed from the consultation process as they were never proposed to be included.</p> <p>The trade were advised that all comments and objections would be discussed at this (08 Jan 2024 meeting)</p>
<p>Response 6: (Taxi Trade) I would not support in increasing the fees now because the present fees is reasonable.</p>	<p>See comments to response 1.</p>
<p>Response 7: (Taxi Trade) I would like my objection to increased fees noted , it is no secret that we feel the council let us down in support of the taxi trade , we were also told in previous meetings that disability and safeguarding training would be included in our licence fees , this has still not</p>	<p>See comments about training costs and fees above.</p>

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<p>been resolved and until we are sure what we a paying for regarding licence fees and increase cannot go ahead , we certainly do not get value for money at the moment !</p>	
<p>Response 8: (Taxi Trade) With regards to the proposed increases in charges, I would like to make the following comments.</p> <p>You are basing your charges on the belief that the Licensing department is carrying out it's duties as required.</p> <p>The Operator Licence fee includes a charge for an annual Operator check. As a Company we have raised the issue on numerous occasions as these checks are quite obviously not being carried out. This would suggest that the Dept. Is quite clearly not carrying out the task's that it is being paid to do.</p> <p>As proof of this i offer the result of an F.O.I request from June. That showed there were 61 operator Licenses in force but only 29 checks had been made in the preceeding year. I have seen no evidence to show that this has improved.</p> <p>This, quite honestly is a disgrace showing that not only is the Department not carrying</p>	<p>A programme has been put in place to ensure that all outstanding operator's checks are undertaken during Q4 of the 2023/24 Financial Year (i.e., between 01 Jan and 31st March 2024).</p>

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<p>out it's required duties but it is in fact failling miserably.</p> <p>Furthermore, having held an operator Licence for some 25 years I feel that the issue of renewal reminders should be raised.</p> <p>The Department has for the 25 years issued licence renewal reminder's. However, this year they decided to stop this practise. Having set the precedant over the last 25 + years it might have been a reasonable expectation that they would notify the trade of this change, but not the case.</p> <p>With regard to renewals, there is supposed to be a turn round time of 7 days.</p> <p>Quite honestly, again from experience they are struggling to complete within 14 days. This would raise the issue of what it is they are actually doing.</p> <p>It has also been raised and minuted that complaint's from the trade are not being acted on..</p> <p>With this in mind no increase should be imposed until such time as the licensing Dept. Can prove it's value.</p>	<p>There is no statutory requirement for the Council to issue renewal reminders. The Team have been working hard to implement the new IT system which, when fully operational, will automate this process.</p>
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