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TEL : [REDACTED] Mobil [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Licensing Dept
West Berkshire Council,
Public protection

17th January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in reply to proposed Taxi fee increase which I can see is only £2.00.

I would like to bring to your attention that I don't oppose this but I would like you to look at a lot of factors that have transpired over the years.

1, the price for a renewal and a new plate are somewhat different and I believe this now needs to be rectified,

At a meeting a while ago when this council put on display the charges for all items regarding taxi plates and fittings, I did notice that there was a charge for all individual pieces now to me these are supplied with every NEW plate inclusive and the renewal is the same price to which you do not get any of the plate fitting except for 4 locking tabs to secure plate to vehicle. Now my thinking is this amounts to a gross overcharge to the Trade over a number of years and should be rectified with a repayment to cover this increase over many years and what can be done to sort this out.

At present I cannot find the price list but will keep looking as in my eyes the council may owe out Thousands of pounds in overcharges.

I hope that you can resolve this problem ASAP

2, It has come to my attention that we have several taxi plates which have been issued that are quite unfit for purpose some with a very light grey print which is barely readable and I have even noticed one with NO expiry date upon it, now to me in my way of thinking this is an error but as the plates are made up by your lovely admin staff and then signed off by a Licensing Officer how can they be not noticed and corrected .

Yours
Bill Annetts

Megan Davis

From: Four Oaks Cars [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 January 2021 14:45
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021/2022

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

To who this concerns

Thank you your email

If I understand the new pricing right you have put the prices up from last from year. This a little concerning due to the crazy situation that COVID has put my company in. And my business is down to 80% last year

Can please reconsider your price rises due current situation we are in

Look forward hearing from you

Cliff Verrall

Four Oaks Cars

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Jan 2021, at 20:19, Licensing wrote:

Good morning

Please find attached an important REVISED letter that is a formal consultation. Thank you.

Kind regards

Public Protection Partnership

Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD

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Megan Davis

From: Dave Roach [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 January 2021 10:58
To: Licensing
Cc: AMPM Taxis Ltd Accounts Department
Subject: Rising cost of licence

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

I find it very difficult to believe that you are even considering increasing the cost of licencing. The local taxis and ph have suffered a severe loss of income due to the corona virus pandemic and this now feels like a stab in the back. The cost of our licences are already much higher than other parts of the country and I cannot see the justification for this. Only just down the road in Basingstoke a vehicle licence renewal is £157, £133 less than your proposed new rate. You have said in the past that the cost of a licence is based on the time it takes to do all the necessary paperwork and produce the licence. Does it really cost that much more to do this in West Berkshire than in Basingstoke??

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Megan Davis

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 January 2021 13:33
To: Licensing
Subject: Proposed fees

Categories: Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

With reference to the recent information received from yourselves regarding the proposed new fee's. I feel that I must make some observations. (Although I don't think for one minute that the committee will take any notice of it).

1/ The last time I heard, we were in the throws of a Pandemic which is killing most trades including the Private hire and Taxi industry. If it wasn't for the various grants and subsidies that are available the trade probably wouldn't exist any longer. there are a lot of members of the trade who are currently barely surviving as they don't qualify for any of the payments.

2/ whilst I have no major objections to the increase in Vehicle fees, I still think this is unreasonable under the current circumstances.

3/ With regards to the increase in Operator fee's. I would love to see the thought process that thinks that under the current circumstance or in fact any circumstance an increase of 3.25 % is reasonable when apparently the current rate of inflation is less than 1%.

4/ I fail to see how the licensing department thinks that any kind of increase is fair considering that the service the trade receives from them is abysmal.

To explain, I recently renewed my Operator and Private Hire licenses. Operator license expires 10/12/2020 Renewal notice received 27/11/2020 allowing 13 days, however 4 days of that were weekends, the department want paperwork at least 5 days before hand leaving 4 days to complete and return. On top of this the License was delayed as the fee we paid was apparently incorrect, As was pointed out to your officer we paid what we were asked to pay (I still have the emails). IT IS NOT MY FAULT that your officers cannot do there job and send the correct renewal notices.

5/ Private Hire License Expires 13/12/2020 Renewal received 25/11/2020 allowing 18 days. 6 days of weekends, 5 day turnaround leaving 7 days. for a license that in the words of a Policeman looked liked a laminated photo copy with a poor photo and no Council crest on it. This could have quite easily turned very messy if it wasn't for the fact that I still had my previous 2 licenses with me.

Quite honestly, this kind of incompetence is unacceptable. I feel that it is time that this department was audited as this is not the first issue raised but the last of many. I have heard there excuses that they are working harder because of the pandemic but that is not an acceptable excuse, it is just an excuse, if they can work remotely what is the problem. If they can't, then obviously the trade is not receiving the service it has paid for. a fact that the trade has known for a long time.

Regards

Graham A Cox

Excel Executive Chauffeurs Ltd

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Megan Davis

From: Jennie Harrison [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2021 15:28
To: Julia OBrien
Subject: Help for west Berkshire taxis

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

I spoke to your colleague yesterday regarding help with plate costs for the taxi drivers of West Berkshire, he suggested I speak to yourself as he couldn't help.

We need help, financially it is dire out on the ranks at the moment and as I told him yesterday I spent from 0845 and did not get a job until after 1300 it was the grand total of £3.60 , our main business has gone, pubs clubs, airports docks etc even people travelling to family it has all gone , yesterday I did not even take a job from the rank so my grand total for yesterday was £4.60 that someone had called me to take them to work as was raining , we can't afford to pay all the fees that putting a taxi on the road entails .

My plate is due at the end of this month ,last year I payed £161.00 and now have a renewal that will be £288.00 how an earth it can increase by that much is beyond my comprehension, and then received an email yesterday informing that you will be putting up to £290.00 so another rise in less than 1 year , we simply can't afford it .

I have been using savings to mot, taxi test and insure my car and am asking that you consider to waive our fee for plate this year, as we have not the means to even earn that much as we have been hit by all the restrictions this year from lockdown in march to opening pubs till 2200 that caused us losses as people didn't bother even going out , with the real possibility of another hard lockdown we just can't afford to carry on .

I used to just work part time and have never had to use savings to put my car on the road as a taxi , the government have stated that it will not be before autumn that any kind of return to normal will be on the cards that is the prospect of another year of restricted earning potential for the taxis of West Berkshire.

Please can you cut us some slack so we can have the potential of still being able to have a job by the end of the year, to help understand the seriousness of our predicament on the meridian news at start of week they interviewed a Newbury taxi driver at the station and she is so far in arrears with her rent she is at risk of losing her home ! This can surely make you aware of how we are struggling to make our living and a little help from the council would go a long way if you would just renew our plates without fee for this year , we haven't really used them as plying for hire is useless if no one to ply hire to are around !

I have sent an email to Laura Ferris MP for Newbury along the lines of this email to you , we are all in the same boat but seem to have been forgotten no one wants to help us, so I'm hoping that something can be done for us so we are still here come the end of 2021 because a lot have already had to hand plates back they can't afford .

Mrs J Harrison
Plate 613
[REDACTED]

Megan Davis

From: Amanda Ward
Sent: 14 January 2021 09:40
To: Licensing
Subject: FW: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation letter 2021/2022
Attachments: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage and Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation letter 2021-2022.pdf
Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

Hi

I'm not sure if this response has also been sent to Licensing to be included as part of the consultation on fees. If it has not please can it be saved in the folder with other responses received?

Kind regards

Amanda

Amanda Ward
Lead Officer Licensing

Public Protection Partnership

A shared service provided by Bracknell Forest Council, West Berkshire Council and Wokingham Borough Council.
☎ (01635) 519976 (external) 📠 Ext no 2976 amanda.ward@westberks.gov.uk

Please note my current working hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings (09:00 -13:00)



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Public Protection
Partnership

From: Outlook Team [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: 12 January 2021 15:40
To: Amanda Ward
Subject: Fwd: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation letter 2021/2022

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I strongly disagree is price rise, as business is on its knees, takings down 80%, had to apply for universal credit to survive Thanks John Bs Taxi/Private Hire

Megan Davis

From: junaid ahmed [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 January 2021 11:02
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021/2022

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

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Good morning

I am not in favour of increase so my feedback is not to increase the prices.

Thanks
Junaid Ahmed

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 8:19 pm, Licensing wrote:

Good morning

Please find attached an important REVISED letter that is a formal consultation. Thank you.

Kind regards

Public Protection Partnership

Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD

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Megan Davis

From: Kevin Hauxwell [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2021 09:00
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021/2022

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

With all what's going on taxi drivers struggling
You put the prices up. Are going to put fees up for school runs so they can pay for the increase as well in stead of filling your pockets all the time .look forward to receiving your reply.
Many thanks Kevin Hauxwell

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Jan 2021, at 20:17, Licensing <Licensing@westberks.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning

Please find attached an important REVISED letter that is a formal consultation. Thank you.

Kind regards

Public Protection Partnership

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Megan Davis

From: Kirtley Nisbett [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 January 2021 11:18
To: Licensing
Subject: Feedback on Consultation on Hackney and Private Hire Operational Fees.

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

Dear MADAM/SIR,

Regarding the consultation regarding possible prices increase I would like to add my view in that process as a current Hackney driver licenced to operate in the West Berkshire Council.

I feel given the circumstances brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lock downs in West Berkshire, the decision should be suspended for at least 6 month's. This will allow for the national vaccine programme to become established, and thus, as a consequence, the local and national population will return to some form of normality including travelling outside.

Given lockdown, including the increase of West Berkshire tier Covid status to Level 4, there has been a decreasing amount of opportunities. As a result this has had a detrimental effect on our incomes. Indeed local reports suggest that the Council itself has also been severely effected with offering service delivery and raising internal fiscal incomes. This reflects the same situation many West Berkshire inhabitants are facing and I believe raising fees is not appropriate at this specific time.

Kind regards

Kirtkey Nisbett
(Taxi licence number 2307
Tax number 567)

Megan Davis

From: Martyn Benson [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 January 2021 11:06
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation letter 2021/2022

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

Hi Amanda,

I believe this email is so badly timed with other local authorities offering reduced fees & support to the trade during this unpredictable time of no work and national lockdowns you are asking us about about increasing fees? Most of us are just trying to survive and struggling to do that. Trade is down roughly 85% at present in West Berks.

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,

Martyn Benson

Ave Cabs Ltd
[REDACTED]

On 12/01/2021 10:29, Licensing wrote:

Good morning

Please find attached an important letter that is a formal consultation. Thank you.

Kind regards

Public Protection Partnership

Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD

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Megan Davis

From: Patrik Beck [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2021 01:01
To: Licensing
Cc: Wally O'Brien; Angela Hopkins; CZ Business; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021/2022

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

To who ever send this email (sorry could not find any signature),

I strongly oppose to any proposed fees and charges increase based on Licensing Committee meeting held on 30.11.2020.

Among other, I find it absolutely disgraceful to try to increase any fees in such a hard times.

Since March 2020 taxi trade dropped below 15%.

There are government schemes to support sole traders hit by this unprecedented situation as well as finance and insurance companies offering payment holidays to help taxi and private hire trade to go through this pandemic, somehow.

You should be ashamed of yourselves.

What are you going to do next? To steal food from homeless ???

Please could you confirm receipt of this email.

Best regards,

Patrik BECK

PHV_197 (on hold) & PHV_477
[REDACTED]

> On 12 Jan 2021, at 20:17, Licensing <Licensing@westberks.gov.uk> wrote:

>

> <West Berkshire Hackney Carriage and Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021-2022.pdf>

Megan Davis

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2021 12:47
To: Licensing
Subject: FAO AMANDA

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

Dear Amanda,

I refer to your e-mail of 12th January 2021 re: the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees and wish to advise of my extreme objection to the increases tabled.

I find it almost unbelievable that the Council is even considering these measures when the entire Industry is struggling to survive.

Please be advised that this objection is not only on my behalf but also on behalf of all 66 Licensed Vehicles on the Cabco fleet.

Regards

Peter Chemaly
Cabco Director

Cabco Limited

T: [REDACTED] T: [REDACTED]

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Megan Davis

From: peter chemaly [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 January 2021 11:42
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation letter 2021/2022

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

I am disgusted, I cannot believe that the PPP, (licensing) can even think to increase the Fees during this Pandemic! The trade is already on its knees and you are wanting to increase the Fees and put another nail in its Coffin?

Despicable, particularly in the light that we have not had an increase since 2013! We are already trading way below the minimum wage limit, some licensees are not even taking home £20.00 pounds a day!

It seems to me that we are the Serfs and the cash cows for all the increases in Salaries that the Council have enjoyed over the last 8 years and we cannot even get a reply to our numerous emails or a consultation for an increase to the trade! We are just ignored!

NO! No to any increase!
Disgusted

On 12 Jan 2021, at 10:30, Licensing <Licensing@westberks.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning
Please find attached an important letter that is a formal consultation. Thank you.
Kind regards
Public Protection Partnership
Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD
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Megan Davis

From: Accounts Theale Taxis [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 January 2021 14:01
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation letter 2021/2022

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

Amanda / Licensing Team

Healthy New Year To you all

I have no concerns with regards to the proposed fees as per you email of 11:01:21.

Please advise with regards to Other Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Charges as listed under FEES AND CHARGES 2020/2021 effective from 1 April 2020.

I take that there is no increase on 2020/2021 fees

Richard

Theale Taxis
[REDACTED]

On 12 Jan 2021, at 10:31, Licensing <Licensing@westberks.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning

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Kind regards

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Megan Davis

From: Richard Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 January 2021 17:19
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021/2022

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

This is an **EXTERNAL EMAIL**. STOP. THINK before you **CLICK** links or **OPEN** attachments.

Dear Licensing,

I speak on behalf of most of west Berkshire taxi drivers when I say due to the current pandemic there is hardly any work out there for us with us struggling to sometime do no more than 20 in one day. So the increase in fees is going to have a huge impact on us all and I believe we would appreciate if you took a look at this.

We have not had a meter fare increase for around 8 years.

Please can you take this into consideration

On Tuesday, 12 January 2021, 20:18:06 GMT, Licensing wrote:

Good morning

Please find attached an important REVISED letter that is a formal consultation. Thank you.

Kind regards

Public Protection Partnership

Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD

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Megan Davis

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2021 12:45
To: Licensing
Subject: FAO AMANDA

Categories: Taxi WB and Wokingham, Keely

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Dear Amanda,

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I find it almost unbelievable that the Council is even considering these measures when the entire Industry is struggling to survive.

Please be advised that this objection is not only on my behalf but also on behalf of all 66 Licensed Vehicles on the Cabco fleet.

Regards

Walter O'Brien
Cabco Director

Cabco Limited

T [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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