

Supplemental Items for Licensing Committee

Monday, 8th February, 2021 at 4.30 pm
Via Zoom

Part I

Page No.

- | | | |
|----|---|--------|
| 4. | Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees Consultation Responses Report | 3 - 10 |
| | <i>Purpose: To allow Members to consider the responses received during the 28 day statutory consultation period concerning the proposed fees in relation to hackney carriage and private hire licensing. A further update will be provided at the Licensing Committee on 8th February on additional responses received prior to the consultation closing on 11th February 2021.</i> | |

Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance

For further information about this/these item(s), or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Moira Fraser on (01635) 519045
e-mail: moira.fraser@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at
www.westberks.gov.uk

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Name	Vehicle/Driver/PHO License Number	Summary of Comments
Abdul Luhid	Driver 2267	Mr Luhid would like to know what the reason is behind the increase, when drivers are struggling to make any income. He believes the increase is unfair and is an injustice by the Council, particularly as other Councils are providing grants, free renewals or extensions. Mr Luhid would like the increase to be revoked, and the Council to be more helpful.
Michael Turner, M.T. Executive Cars of Thatcham	Not provided	<p>Mr Turner cannot understand how the Council can consider putting up the price of a plate yet again, as this is 'killing' taxi drivers, particularly as it is hard enough trying to find the money to pay the bills at the moment. Mr Turner would like the Council to consider giving some sort of help, especially as it's going to take a long time for business to come back (only doing local dares, as there are no pubs/clubs/airports/docks). He thinks drivers should stand together and fight the Council until they receive the help they need.</p> <p>Mr Turner also raises the issue of courses – he believes they should be suspended for a year, as they cannot be done in a classroom, and many 'of us' are not computer literate. He says the courses are not up to standard, there are too many problems doing them online, and that lots of taxis are packing it up because of the cost of the flights for courses, when there is no money coming in.</p>
Mohammed Sarwar Hussain	Not provided	Mr Hussain believes increasing licence fees at this difficult time is unfair for all drivers and owners. He advises that sometimes they cannot even make £20 for an 8-9 hour shift. He states it is unfortunate that the Council are not helping, when other Councils are providing cash grants or reduced fees. He would like to the Council to reconsider the decision, and help to save the trade.

<p>Walter O'Brien, Cabco Objection lodged on behalf of 98 members / drivers on Cabco circuit</p>	<p>Not provided</p>	<p>Mr O'Brien would like to convey his strong objections to the proposed increase. He finds it astonishing that the Council can even consider this proposal when the industry is struggling to even survive this pandemic.</p> <p>Mr O'Brien is the Senior Director for Cabco in Newbury, and would like the Committee to be aware that this objection is shared by the 98 members / drivers in their Circuit. If necessary, he can provide the names, details and signatures of these drivers. He would like the Council to be aware that a good proportion of these individuals do not have the facilities or technical ability to participate in a Zoom meeting, but that it is essential that their voices are still heard in this matter. He trusts that the Council will take cognisance of this request, and does not attempt to railroad this proposal through based on the absence of participants or the lack of an effective Taxi Association in West Berkshire.</p>
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Megan Davis

From: Abdul Luhid [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 January 2021 04:37
To: Licensing
Subject: West Berkshire Hackney carriage/Private hire vehicle/ Private hire operator fees consultation letter 2021/2022

Categories: Keely

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

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to know what is the reason behind this increase in this difficult time where we can hardly make any income. People are struggling to make ends meet so we find the increase is unfair and injustice by the council where other councils are around the country providing grants, free renewal or extension but West Berkshire council doesn't seem to help the situation we are all in.

We would like this increase to be revoked and ask the council to be more helpful.

Thank you

Abdul Luhid

Driver 2267

Sent from my iPhone

Megan Davis

From: francis dela cruz [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 January 2021 19:31
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Criminal Convictions Policy
Categories: Keely

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

Hi,

I think the price increase is not fair during this pandemic, as you know we lost a lot of clients.

Many thanks,
Francis

On Saturday, January 16, 2021, 6:54:46 PM GMT, Licensing wrote:

Good afternoon

Please find attached for your information. Thank you.

Kind regards

Keely Whittle

Keely Whittle

Applications Technical Officer

Public Protection Partnership

Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD

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Megan Davis

From: Mohammed Sarwar Hussain [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2021 01:04
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation letter 2021/2022

Categories: Keely

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

Dear sir/medam increasing license fees at this difficult time is unfair for all drivers and owners. Due to COVID 19 our income reduced significantly, we can't even make £20 for 8-9 hours shift. Where majority of the council in England providing cash grant or reduced fees for the drivers, we are very unfortunate that our local council not helping at this uncertain time.

Please kindly reconsider your decision not to increase license fees. And please help us to save this trade.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Mr M S Hussain

On 12 Jan 2021, at 10:31, 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: Lucky Miah >
Sent: 27 January 2021 10:13
To: Licensing
Subject: Re: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021/2022

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

Dear sir/madam

To whom it may concern

I would like to let you know from March 2020 through the pandemic the work has been so quiet there isn't much job to do. I personally do not agree to increasing fees. Our fees are more expensive than Wokingham. I suggest the fees need to be considered and looked into, please. Due to the lockdown the whole town has been empty. As you know most of the company employees are working from home, please put this into consideration.

Your sincerely

L A Miah

On 12 Jan 2021, at 20:18, 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: michael Turner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 28 January 2021 15:03
To: Julia OBrien
Subject: Fwd: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage and Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021-2022.pdf
Attachments: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage and Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021-2022.pdf

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: michael Turner <[REDACTED]>
Date: 28 January 2021 at 14:58:36 GMT
To: Licensing <Licensing@westberks.gov.uk>
Subject: West Berkshire Hackney Carriage and Private Vehicle and Private Hire Operator fees consultation REVISED letter 2021-2022.pdf

I would grateful if you could use these comments to help us gain some help I cannot understand how are you can think about putting up the price of a plate yet again as all this is doing is killing or taxi drivers as we have no work for nearly a year now and it is hard enough trying to find the money to pay the bills now and also of these courses I believe they should be suspended for a year as we cannot do them in the classroom and a lot of us are not computer literate and we are struggling to increase the price of the flights and I feel very strongly as many of the other taxi drivers are the same as me I hope you consider to give us some sort of help rather than just make us lose our business and career and I believe it is going to take a long time our business to come back as there is no pub or no clubs no airports no docs basically we are doing local fares lucky if we are on more than £20 a day so I think it was time to stand together and fight the council until they Decide to give us the help we need and not keep increasing the cost of the plate and making us pay for these courses which are not up to standard and there are too many problems doing these online and lots of taxes are actually packing it up because of the cost of the flights for courses when I have no money coming in Kind regards Michael Turner of M.T.Executive cars of Thatcham

Sent from my iPad

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