



North West/584 WIRRAL TAXI BRANCH

Branch Chair: Derek Cummins
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Branch Secretary: Mark Royden
mark.Royden@unitetheunion.org,

Re: Taxi & Private Hire Licence Fee Increases

To Whom it may concern.

I would like to object to the proposed rises in taxi licensing fees on the following grounds.

a) Lack of Consultation.

Traditionally licensing officers would bring licensing fee proposals to the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) in order to discuss the proposed changes with both hackney and private hire representatives. At the most recent JCC 15 February 2017, there was no mention of the proposed increases.

In addition, last year the trade representatives complained that notification for the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee (GP) had become erratic, and that trade representatives had missed several important GP meetings. It was agreed at a JCC that the council would no longer send out hard copies of the GP agenda, but the representatives would sign up to an online scheme that 'flags' the relevant committees. Neither I nor any other of the representatives received notification of the GP 22 March 2017, which is why no one from the trade was in attendance for this important meeting.

b) Disproportionate Increase in Licensing Fees

In 2016 Licensing Fees rose by 4%, which was three times the level of inflation, nevertheless licence fees had remained static for some time, and the trade was in agreement that a rise was justified.

This year proposed increase works out at an average increase of 11.2% whereas general inflation stands at 1.6%.

Although we are aware that the purpose of licensing fees is to recoup the cost of operation of the licensing section and therefore any increase won't necessarily shadow general inflation, because the figures may include hiring extra staff, demand surveys etc. Nevertheless it is hard to see a justification of a tenfold increase in 12 months given that in some cases, for example the processing of driver licences (badges), the cost of operation has decreased on account of the issue going from annually to every three years.

Yours Sincerely


Derek Cummins, Chair
Mark Royden, Branch Secretary (NW/584 Unite the Union Taxi Branch)

