

14/12/15

Dear Mr Chairman,

This letter is regarding some issues we would like to be brought up at the next panel meeting.

1. ~~Vehicle's RBWM logo. When we were consulted in 2011, we were shown an A4 size logo sticker (as attached) that would go on the front doors which would cost £5/10. But when the new licenses came after the deregulation of the Hackney carriage policy, the licensing department started putting a large logo, which was originally designed for bin lorries.~~

The logo cost was originally included in the license fee and existing license holders were told by the licensing officer that they would be given the logo the first time without charge, when they changed their vehicle and they had done this until last month.

Now the licensing department have started charging the existing drivers £170, without any consultation. We request the panel to make the licensing department, introduce a smaller sized logo sticker to the original planned A4 size, and which is also cheaper. Especially since, they are introducing one licensing sticker to be displayed inside the vehicle, there is no need for a bigger logo outside, since there is no benefit to the customer or the trade. But if the panel think the large outside logo is necessary, then we request the panel to fund these from the public fund, due to the cost of these large stickers.

2. Licensing badge: All other councils in the country are introducing a 3 year badge, to reduce cost. In neighbouring council's the renewal cost is about £220/£230 for 3 years. We request the panel to follow other councils with the introduction of a 3 year renewal option which is both attractive and cheaper, especially since the amount of admin cost which would be saved.
3. DVLA database check: From June 2015 this service is free from the DVLA website, we wonder how the council can charge us £7.5 for this service which is free. We request the panel to remove these charges and make the council refund this fee to the drivers.
4. Temporary licence fee: The licensing department want to raise this by 50%. However we were given a taxi fare rise of 3% last time. So if the council are going to raise this fee, this should be in keeping with the rate of inflation rather than a 50 % increase. The price currently is £80, but the council want to increase this to £120.
5. Fare rise: If the panel let the licensing fee rise by 50% than we request the panel to raise our taxi fare as well. If that fee is to go up by 50% then we request the panel to raise our taxi fare by 80p per journey. If the licensing fee does not go up by 50% then

we want just 40p per journey, 40p per extra passenger and baggage. These charges have been worked out on the attached fare template.

6. ~~Abolition of the taxi Marshall: Now the Victoria Street, Windsor rank has been established we don't need the taxi marshalls'. Only 15% of drivers use that rank. Why should the rest of us pay if we don't use it? If the panel think it is good for public places, than the council should fund them from the public fund. Also the charge when introduced was £60 per the 96 drivers, now there are 189 drivers, so surely the cost should have been reduced by half. Therefore the council have currently been generating an extra £5580 since the deregulation of the Hackney policy, so where has this extra money been going?~~
7. Weekend private hire office under the arches: When it was introduced there were only 25 taxis now we there are 189. More than 100 of which are working in Windsor on weekends, So there is no longer a need for the private hire office, which originally didn't have any planning. There simply isn't enough demand for 100 hackney carriages plus the additional private hire, so the private hire office should be moved.
8. Medical checks for over 65: Currently the policy for medical checks is every 5 years, but the licensing department wants to introduce a medical check for every year after the age of 65. But rather than every year, this should surely be 2 yearly, since the retirement age is increasing.

Yours sincerely

Mohammad Yasin
Chairman of RBWM taxi association

Current taxi fare chart:

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Hackney Carriage Tariff			
DISTANCE		Soiling Interior of Vehicle	£80.00
For the first 1066 yards (975m) or part thereof	£2.80	Soiling Exterior of Vehicle	£20.00
For each subsequent 200 yards (182.88m) or uncompleted part thereof	20p	11 p.m. to 6 a.m. and Bank Holidays	50% above the normal rate or fare
WAITING TIME		For any hiring when part of the hirer's journey takes place between the above hours or during Bank Holidays	
For each period of 46 seconds or uncompleted part thereof provided that where a hiring by distance terminates at the place at which it commenced, the rate of fare for which the proprietor or driver shall be entitled to demand and take for the hiring shall be three quarters of the rate or fare prescribed by the foregoing table.	20p		
EXTRA CHARGES		<i>None of the stated fares will apply if the hirer at the commencement of the hiring expresses his desire to engage by time.</i>	
Booking Fee		<i>Where a Hackney Carriage furnished with a taximeter is hired by distance the driver is not entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for extra charges authorised by the above table which may not be recorded on the face of the taximeter.</i>	
For each hiring under Section 67 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£1.00		
LUGGAGE			
For each package carried outside the vehicle	20p		
EXTRA PASSENGERS			
Extra Passengers for Each Person Carried Above the Number of Two for the Whole or Part of the Distance	20p	Any complaints or other communications should be sent to Licensing, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF	
AUGUST 2014			

Proposed changes for 40 pence rise, plus 40 pence for extra passenger above one and baggage.

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Hackney Carriage Tariff			
DISTANCE			
For the first 866 yards (792m) or part thereof	£3.00	Soiling Interior of Vehicle	£80.00
For each subsequent 200 yards (182.88m) or uncompleted part thereof	20p	Soiling Exterior of Vehicle	£20.00
WAITING TIME		11 p.m. to 6 a.m. and Bank Holidays	50% above the normal rate or fare
For each period of 46 seconds or uncompleted part thereof provided that where a hiring by distance terminates at the place at which it commenced, the rate of fare for which the proprietor or driver shall be entitled to demand and take for the hiring shall be three quarters of the rate or fare prescribed by the foregoing table	40p	For any hiring when part of the hirer's journey takes place between the above hours or during Bank Holidays	
EXTRA CHARGES		None of the stated fares will apply if the hirer at the commencement of the hiring expresses his desire to engage by time.	
Booking Fee		Where a Hackney Carriage furnished with a taximeter is hired by distance the driver is not entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for extra charges authorised by the above table which may not be recorded on the face of the taximeter	
For each hiring under Section 67 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£1.00	Any complaints or other communications should be sent to Licensing, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF	
LUGGAGE			
For each package carried outside the vehicle	40p		
EXTRA PASSENGERS			
Extra Passengers for Each Person Carried Above the Number of one for the Whole or Part of the Distance	40p		

Proposed changes for 80 pence rise, plus 40 pence for extra passenger above one and baggage

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Hackney Carriage Tariff			
DISTANCE			
For the first 466 yards (426m) or part thereof	£3.00	Soiling Interior of Vehicle	£80.00
For each subsequent 200 yards (182.88m) or uncompleted part thereof	20p	Soiling Exterior of Vehicle	£20.00
WAITING TIME		11 p.m. to 6 a.m. and Bank Holidays	50% above the normal rate or fare
For each period of 46 seconds or uncompleted part thereof provided that where a hiring by distance terminates at the place at which it commenced, the rate of fare for which the proprietor or driver shall be entitled to demand and take for the hiring shall be three quarters of the rate or fare prescribed by the foregoing table.	40p	For any hiring when part of the hirer's journey takes place between the above hours or during Bank Holidays	
EXTRA CHARGES		None of the stated fares will apply if the hirer at the commencement of the hiring expresses his desire to engage by time.	
Booking Fee		Where a Hackney Carriage furnished with a taximeter is hired by distance the driver is not entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for extra charges authorised by the above table which may not be recorded on the face of the taximeter.	
For each hiring under Section 67 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	£1.00		
LUGGAGE			
For each package carried outside the vehicle	40p		
EXTRA PASSENGERS			
Extra Passengers for Each Person Carried Above the Number of one for the Whole or Part of the Distance	40p	Any complaints or other communications should be sent to Licensing, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF	