

Appendix 4 Letter of Objection from Taxi Driver

Tim Whelan

Director of Service Delivery

Eastbourne Borough Council

1 Grove Road

Eastbourne

Sussex

BN21 4TW



1-8-19

Dear Mr Whelan

I write to you regarding the Proposed Hackney Carriage fare increase as advertised on Page 63 of the Eastbourne Herald, 19th July 2019.

Hopefully you are aware Hackney Carriage is work from a Taxi Rank, where a passenger will walk to a Rank.

Here in Eastbourne its Old orchard rd, Bolton rd and the Rank at the Station, all other Ranks scattered around the town offer no work whatsoever and should be removed.

The new fares advertised were put together by a Hackney Carriage License holder but he works for a Private Hire firm in Eastbourne, all Private Hire firms in Eastbourne operate using there own fares and not the Councils Tariff Card, they will only use the Councils rates if they are Lucky to get a passenger off a Taxi Rank if they are Hackney Carriage, otherwise its Phone/App work.

Furthermore, a Council Officer has been seen to be taking fares from Private Hire firms and should be stopped. It is also noted that the Council has no right to take fares from Private Hire firms.

The new fares proposed are simply not right for Eastbourne, passengers who use us with the new fares then realise how much more they are paying simply won't use us again, up to 25% increases in some sections, as pointed out by some Cllrs at the meeting, that sort of % increase is just not palatable in this present climate. Just because the Hackney Carriage Trade haven't had a fare rise in 10 years doesn't mean we should burden the fare paying public with sky high % ~~increases~~ increases.

Transportation of Pets has risen from £1 to £2 that's a 100% increase, passengers now walk away when ~~we~~ we tell them there is a charge for there dog, so they are hardly going to use us if that charge has risen 100%, there should be no charge to encourage passengers to use us, most drivers ~~do~~ don't take dogs etc due to there religion or health issues.

Private Hire firms can charge for pets if they so wish.

Requirment for small removal has risen from £6 to £8 (Surcharge) that is a 33% increase, this shouldn't even be on the fare Card. Some drivers are charging £6 for a TV, what is a small removal? I've heard from other drivers and i've heard it myself drivers saying to passengers that there will be a surcharge for your Luggage (Suitcases) again, what is a ~~surcharge~~? Small removal?, i've seen passengers walking off, they will never use us again.

Private Hire firms ~~can~~ can add a surcharge if they so wish.

3/ It seems that some drivers are exploiting this Loophole, what about the passengers who have a surcharge added onto their fare at the end of their journey who haven't been told in advance?

I would of thought any Council including EBC would be ashamed that this is happening. This loophole should be removed immediately. Whilst we are deserving of a fare rise it has to be one that will keep passengers using us from the Ranks in the Town. We should also be mindful of Uber ready to ~~snatch~~^{pounce} if the fares from the Ranks become too unacceptable to the paying passengers. Its very easy in this day and age to pick up a phone or press an App and have a Private Hire come to you rather than ~~just~~ walk to a Rank.

With all that in mind please find enclosed a more passenger focused fare proposal with percentage increases between 9.09% & 12.50%. Plus no Surcharges and Pets travelling free, i feel all of this will encourage more passengers to use us. it is the passenger that is more important than the driver.

Yours Sincerely

Hackney Carriage Proprietor

Appendix 5 Suggested tariff card from the objector

RATE 1		PRESENT	PROPOSED	0% INCREASE	WAITING TIME
6am – 10pm Mon – Sat	START RATE	£2.60	£2.90	11:53	10p for each 20 secs
		£1.60 per mile up to 5 miles	£1.80 per mile up to 5 miles	12.50	
	1 st Mile	£4.20	£4.70	11.90	
	2 nd Mile	£5.80	£6.50	12.06	
	3 rd Mile	£7.40	£8.30	12.16	
	4 th Mile	£9.00	£10.10	12.22	
	5 th Mile	£10.60	£11.90	12.26	
		£2.00 per mile over 5 miles	£2.20 per mile over 5 miles	10	
	6 th Mile	£12.60	£14.10	11.90	
	7 th Mile	£14.60	£16.30	11.64	
	8 th Mile	£16.60	£18.50	11.44	
	9 th Mile	£18.60	£20.70	11.29	
	10 th Mile	£20.60	£22.90	11.16	

RATE 2		PRESENT	PROPOSED	0% INCREASE	WAITING TIME
6am – 10pm Sundays & Bank Holidays	START RATE	£3.00	£3.30	9.99	10p for each 20 secs
		£1.60 per mile up to 5 miles	£1.80 per mile up to 5 miles	12.5	
	1 st Mile	£4.60	£5.10	10.86	
	2 nd Mile	£6.20	£6.90	11.29	
	3 rd Mile	£7.80	£8.70	11.53	
	4 th Mile	£9.40	£10.50	11.70	
	5 th Mile	£11.00	£12.30	11.81	
		£2.00 per mile over 5 miles	£2.20 per mile over 5 miles	10	
	6 th Mile	£13.00	£14.50	11.53	
	7 th Mile	£15.00	£16.70	11.33	
	8 th Mile	£17.00	£18.90	11.17	
	9 th Mile	£19.00	£21.10	11.05	
	10 th Mile	£21.00	£21.30	10.95	

RATE 3		PRESENT	PROPOSED	0% INCREASE	WAITING TIME
10pm – 6am Mon – Sun, Christmas, New years eve & new years day 6am – 10pm	START RATE	£3.00	£3.30	9.99	10p for each 20 secs
		£1.90 per mile up to 5 miles	£2.10 per mile up to 5 miles	10.53	
	1 st Mile	£4.90	£5.40	10.20	
	2 nd Mile	£6.80	£7.50	10.29	
	3 rd Mile	£8.70	£9.60	10.34	
	4 th Mile	£10.60	£11.70	10.37	
	5 th Mile	£12.50	£13.80	10.40	
		£2.20 per mile over 5 miles	£2.40 per mile over 5 miles	9.09	
	6 th Mile	£14.70	£16.20	10.20	
	7 th Mile	£16.90	£18.60	10.05	
	8 th Mile	£19.10	£21.00	9.94	
	9 th Mile	£21.30	£23.40	9.85	
	10 th Mile	£23.50	£25.80	9.78	

RATE 4		PRESENT	PROPOSED	0% INCREASE	WAITING TIME
Christmas Day – 6am 27 th Dec – New years Day to 6am	START RATE	£5.20	£5.80	11:53	20p for each 20 secs
		£3.20 per mile up to 5 miles	£3.60 per mile up to 5 miles	12.50	
	1 st Mile	£8.40	£9.40	11.90	
	2 nd Mile	£11.60	£13.00	12.06	
	3 rd Mile	£14.80	£16.60	12.16	
	4 th Mile	£18.00	£20.20	12.22	
	5 th Mile	£21.20	£23.80	12.26	
		£4.00 per mile over 5 miles	£4.40 per mile over 5 miles	10	
	6 th Mile	£25.20	£28.20	11.90	
	7 th Mile	£29.20	£32.60	11.64	
	8 th Mile	£33.20	£37.00	11.44	
	9 th Mile	£37.20	£41.40	11.29	
	10 th Mile	£41.20	£45.80	11.16	

RATES 5-8	5 or more passengers	Rates 1-4 plus 50% half
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	PRESENT	PROPOSED
	Transportation of domestic pets £1.00	No Charge
	Requirement for small removal, £6.00 surcharge in addition to the metered fare	No Charge
	Fouling of the vehicle £50.00	£60.00