

From: [SUSAN JONES](#) on behalf of [Licensing GRAHAM DAVIES](#)
To: _____
Subject: RE: Licensing Fee increase
Date: 02 January 2020 12:21:01

Annex B

Dear Graham,

Your comments will be presented to the taxi licensing committee for consideration, to date these are the only ones that I have received.

I would say that a lot of work goes into ensuring accurate figures, as far as possible, are used to determine the fees each year and to ensure that the cost of administering the taxi licensing service is recovered via the fees, in addition we are aware that the fees cannot subsidise other council services, as such income from taxi fees is kept separate to other income. I take on board your comments about licensing officers being visible and will see if we can address this by more regular pro-active spot checks in future, however there is often a lot of reactive work being carried out, dealing with complaints, allegations, sub-committee determinations etc. that may not be obviously apparent and does take significant time.

I have in the past signposted you to the Licensing Expert Panel spreadsheets that are used for the purpose of calculating fees so that you can see the full extent of what is considered. I have just spoken to our information compliance unit about sharing the completed spreadsheets and they have suggested that you need to make a request under freedom of information, however some of the information will need to be redacted as it would be considered exempt.

In respect of the taxi fares survey, I will consider the responses received in due course to see if there is any demand for any changes.

Regards

Sue Jones

Senior Licensing Officer/Uwch Swyddog Trwddedu

/

Trwyddedu Cymraeg – Cyngor Sir Powys
Licensing Team – Powys County Council

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Cysylltwch â ni yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg. Ni fydd cysylltu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.
Contact us in Welsh or in English. Contacting in Welsh won't lead to a delay.

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-----Original Message-----

From: GRAHAM DAVIES <brecontaxis@outlook.com>
Sent: 31 December 2019 16:20
To: Licensing <licensing@powys.gov.uk>
Subject: Licensing Fee increase

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the proposed fee increases yet again.

You are proposing to increase the Joint Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver 3 year Licence by over 5%, the 1 year Licence by 8.7% and the Vehicle Licence by 7.2%.

These rises are way above the level of inflation and cannot be justified for the service provided.

As drivers we are having to cope with ever increasing running costs for fuel, insurance and maintenance.

I am sure you will point out that a questionnaire was sent out about fare increases, but as Drivers we know that if fares increase people will use taxis less, as they have a choice of other transport or to walk.

As Drivers we have no choice over your fees as we cannot operate without the Licenses.

In the past I have asked about the Licensing fees and have been told about formulas being used, similar to other Councils, but have never been given any actual figures to substantiate the fees being charged.

The fees are only supposed to cover costs of Licensing Taxis and not other services that the Licensing Department is responsible for.

It is very rare to see any Taxi Officers on the streets, they do not see Private Hire vehicles and other members of the public parking on the Rank. They do not hear the abuse we get when trying to tell these people they cannot park on a Rank. Just today a driver of a taxi from Neath told me a Powys Licensing Officer had told him he could park there - surprisingly I didn't believe him.

Back in November, after moving a car of the Rank - a rare case - one of the Traffic Wardens commented how difficult it was to see some of the Taxi markings and said he would report back about it, but nothing has been done.

I would ask again for a full figure breakdown of all incomes and costs for Taxi Licensing in Powys - not formulas - to see how your proposed fees are calculated.

Thanking you.

Graham Davies

Proprietor

Brecon Taxis

Arfon House

38 Free Street

Brecon

Powys