

# Public protection Committee

## Hackney Taxi review

The Hackney taxi trade has compiled a review of fares, the last slight increase dealt with fuel surcharges and outdated waiting charges, a t2 weekday start of 9pm along with 40p extra T4 at 1pm.

Please consider that we are a rural area with no real footfall, so 99% of the journeys are single one way then returning back to a rank empty, other areas have more footfall for the capacity to do more return or extra flag down journeys, nobody is about when you drop off in Wrea Green, Freckleton etc.

Whilst everything has nearly gone up 50%, cost of used cars are high, parts are high, insurance has risen at least 10% tailored with most of the country having pay rises of around 10% even pensioners got 10.1%, I spoke to two old ladies the other day, they had been waiting for over 30 mins at Lytham rank for a taxi, the fares are too low to go out and work on t1.

Most establishments if they want to employ staff in today's market are paying upwards of £12 per hour this is plus holidays, pension and overtime and bank holidays. A Hackney rank taxi driver in our area wouldn't earn that in our area on T1 rates given that he would return empty, with the introduction of card payments, less people offer a tip and the driver has to pay to process the payment thus reducing his income more.

We are requesting a rewrite of the tariffs so it's easier for the customer, making xmas t4, so its t1 for daytime, t2 for after 9pm and weekends, t3 for late night to 6am and t4 for xmas and new year.

Flag drops remain the same for t1, t2, and late night t3 (old t4), yardages have changed, late night tariff in other areas start at 12pm we would like ours to do the same in line with most boroughs in the country.

Our Christmas flag drop has been far too cheap and isn't reasonable for Christmas and New Year, Blackpool is £5.80 (with current fuel surcharge) whilst Wyre adds £3 to make theirs £6.30, we would like to raise ours to £5.80.

The time of writing this letter is early May 2023, due to the process involved in submitting and reviewing and implying this probably might be implied very late 2023 or early 2024.

The trade also requests that the committee consider the future of taxi increases, due to its complexity, a while back the council recommended that The Brighton and Hove formula be introduced to make things simpler, this would mean that if there is an increase to apply it

would work it out itself as it's a computer programme that takes the hard work out to make things simpler.

The trade feels this is a fair increase, everything has risen in costs, other transport options have risen multiple times, wages have risen, maintaining a car is more expensive, and by the time this review is considered and put in place it will be not far off 2024.

Steve Horvath