

UTTLESFORD LICENSED OPERATORS & DRIVERS ASSOCIATION



Mr. Michael Perry
Assistant Chief Executive
Uttlesford District Council
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB11 4ER

8 February, 2010

Dear Mr. Perry,

Fares of Hackney Carriage Vehicles
Table of Fares
ULODA Working Party Recommendations

You will see enclosed our proposal to increase the fares of HCVs with effect from April 2010, following the trade's annual review as agreed with the Council. We gave notice of this at the Liaison Meeting in November and agreed it should be formally included on the Agenda at the next Licensing Committee Meeting on 10 March.

Members will want to know that the increases we are proposing are broadly in line with those they resolved to approve a year ago. We are seeking a nominal increase of 11p to 32p for each additional mile beyond a journey's first mile. Most fares will thus rise marginally by up to 5% and in recognition of the increases in vehicle running costs (fuel, servicing/maintenance, tyres, insurance, etc.) we have all suffered in the last twelve months since the last increase in fares. Also, there is a Projected Licensed Taxi Cost Index produced by TfL which indicates an estimated operating cost increase of at least 2.6% during 2010. Members may be aware that neighbouring Councils have resolved to increase their Table of Fares in the last few months and others are expected to do so this year.

Members and Officers will have taken note of the continuing debate initiated by trade members about the practice of some Operators who have chosen not to display the current Table of Fares. ULODA is committed to applying ONLY the current Table of Fares on the basis of consistency – customers hailing taxis should not be confused by different rates being displayed although we continue to champion the spirit of negotiation between customer and driver. May we again formally ask the Council to change its current policy of allowing Operators to vary their metered display of fares, which we believe to be also illegal (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Part II, Section 65 (6)). With immediate effect, we propose that all HCVs (not just those of ULODA members) display only the current maximum metered rates.

We look forward to attending next month's Licensing Committee Meeting and to Members resolving to accept our proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Drinkwater
Chair

cc. Murray Hardy
Andrew White
Kevin Cordall
Robert Sinnott

Please reply to Pennard House, Wrights Green, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 7RJ

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in the Uttlesford District Council Community