

# Public Document Pack

<b>MEETING:</b>	General Licensing Regulatory Board
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday 19 April 2023
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

## AGENDA

1 Declaration of Interests

To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

2 Minutes (*Pages 3 - 4*)

To accept as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2023.

3 Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase (*Pages 5 - 18*)

4 Licensing and Enforcement Update (*Pages 19 - 22*)

To: Chair and Members of General Licensing Regulatory Board:-

Councillors Green (Chair), Bowser, A. Cave, Cherryholme, Clarke, Danforth, K. Dyson, Franklin, Greenhough, Hunt, Kitching, Lodge, Markham, Newing, Osborne, Pickering, Ramchandani, Risebury, Shepherd, Stowe, Sumner, Webster, White, Williams, Wilson and Wraith MBE

Wendy Popplewell, Executive Director Core Services  
Matt O'Neill, Executive Director Growth and Sustainability  
Sajeda Khalifa, Solicitor  
Debbie Bailey, Senior Licensing Officer  
Jamie Impey, Senior Legal Officer

Please contact Mel Bray on email [melaniebray@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:melaniebray@barnsley.gov.uk)

Tuesday 11 April 2023

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<b>MEETING:</b>	General Licensing Regulatory Board
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday 15 February 2023
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

### Present

Councillors Green (Chair), Bowser, Cherryholme, Clarke, Danforth, K. Dyson, Lodge, Markham, Osborne, Shepherd, White and Williams

### 11 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Shepherd declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the items on the agenda.

### 12 Minutes

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Licensing Regulatory Board meeting held on 21 December 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

### 13 Statement of Gambling Policy Review Consultation 2022/23

A report of the Service Director Law and Governance was submitted which informed Members of the Statement of Gambling Policy Review Consultation responses and sought the views and recommendations in relation to the same for Cabinet and Full Council.

Members recalled that as a Licensing Authority, a Statement of Gambling Policy must be determined and published at least once every 3 years.

The statutory consultation for the Statement of Gambling Policy had ran for 10 weeks from 28 October 2022 until 6 January 2023, and a total of 3 responses had been received.

The Senior Licensing Officer provided a series of comprehensive responses to the questions raised by Members.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- i) Members considered the draft Statement of Gambling Policy and the consultation responses received and contained within the body of the report.
- ii) The draft Statement of Gambling Policy be submitted for consideration and approval to Cabinet and Full Council.

## 14 Licensing and Enforcement Update

Members were provided with an overview of the enforcement work that had recently been undertaken by Licensing Officers, which was presented by the Senior Licensing Officer.

Members were advised that on 24 January 2023 Licensing Enforcement Officers had taken part in a daytime operation which had focused on Private Hire drivers and vehicles that worked in the day time economy. A total of 21 licensed vehicles and drivers had been inspected on the day, the results of which were detailed below:-

- 7 vehicles were suspended for failing to display the required door signage.
- 1 vehicle was suspended for an inoperative front offside side light.
- 1 vehicle was suspended for failing to display the required front private hire licence plate.
- 3 written warnings were issued to drivers for failing to carry out their daily vehicle inspection checks.
- 6 drivers were also spoken to about the signage on the vehicles and reminded of the required standard.

Following a request made by Members at the last General Licensing Regulatory Board meeting held on 21 December 2022, paper copies of the daily vehicle inspection check booklets were circulated for Members' perusal.

**RESOLVED** that Members noted the update.

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Chair

# Item 3

**Report of the Service Director to the  
General Licensing Regulatory Board  
to be held on the 19 April 2023**

**Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report, is to inform Members of the request received from the Barnsley Hackney Carriage Association asking the Council to increase the current Hackney Carriage Tariff.

**2. Background**

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives the Council the authority to fix fares for Hackney Carriages.

When the Council makes or varies the fares for Hackney Carriages it must publish in at least one local newspaper a notice setting out the new table of fares and specifying the period of not less than 14 days within which any objections to the proposal can be made.

A copy of the proposed tariff must also be available at Council Offices for the public to inspect at all reasonable hours.

If no objections are received the new table of fares will come into effect on the expiration date of the period specified in the published notice. If objections are received then the Council must consider these and then make the decision to approve or amend the tariff accordingly.

**3. Current Position**

The request from the Hackney Carriage Association to increase the fares charged has been submitted as follows:

**Please could you forward our request to the Licensing Board for their attention.**

**After a recent Hackney Carriage meeting it was decided by the members**

unanimously to ask the board for a Hackney Carriage fare increase. Since our last increase in 2021 we have had to endure a very tough time with Fuel prices rising to the highest levels in history and inflation running at above 10%

All drivers having to brunt the costs through this very difficult period. We therefore are requesting the following increases to our Tariffs

#### **T1 FLAG**

**An increase of 30p from £4.20 to £4.50**

**An increase of 20p on the mile thereafter from £1.60 to £1.80**

#### **T2**

**An increase of 30p from £5.00 to £5.30**

**An increase of 20p on the mile thereafter from £1.60 to £1.80**

#### **T3**

**In line with the tariff increases (double fare)**

#### **T4**

**5/8 seaters to increase to fare and half of T1**

**From £5.40 to £6.70 flag**

**From £2.40 to £2.70 mile thereafter.**

**This increase to fare and half is standard charge throughout the country for 5/8 seaters.**

**This has not been reflected in our last 2 increases and we would like to bring us in line with other Councils.**

**A request to go from charging T4 after 1am to 7am Sunday morning (SUPER TARIFF) creating a fifth tariff, which keeps old T4 rates but with the same increases**

#### **T5**

**An increase of 30p from £5.40 to £5.70**

**An increase of 30p in the mile thereafter from £2.40 to £2.70**

**Tariff 5 to be charged on ALL BANK HOLIDAYS 1am to 7am as on Sunday mornings**

**A further request is made for Hackney Carriages to charge T2 from**

**SUNDAY 7am to MONDAY 7am**

**All other parts of the tariff to remain the same**

**It may be a lot in writing but the main fare increases are below inflation at 7.15 % and as the underlying mile increase as gone up by 12%, this has not increased since 2014 so just over 1% per year.**

**We are currently 298 in The National Hackney Fares out of 339 councils. This increase would bring us up to 252 still well below the average of other councils.**

**We believe these increase to be fair and proportionate in the current economy.**

**Kind Regards**

**A copy of the request is attached to this report as Appendix 1.**

**A further e-mail was then received in support of the tariff increase application which states:-**

**As you are aware we have just submitted a request for a Hackney Carriage Fare increase.**

**The main reason being that of the inflation rate, the cost of food, mortgages, rents energy, council tax, fuel, insurance, repairs, etc etc...**

**We like all other citizens of the country have to make a living wage that affords us to do all the above. Therefore we come to the board with our request.**

**In 2021 we was granted a fare increase that covered the rising cost of fuel and other costs but because we had to re submit and answer the licensing board of why? what? where? and miscellaneous questions, the rise left us behind private hires as fuel prices went through the roof. When we put our request in for our last increase fuel was at £1.36 p/l and our calculations were for an increase to counteract that but little did we know what was in store with Ukraine situation and inflation jumping to over 10% and fuel reaching 1.96 p/l but our hands were tied as we couldn't come back to licensing so quickly as it took over 3 months to get the last increase so we just had to endure it**

**We have recently lost drivers to the main 2 private hire companies and also to jobs that pay the minimum wage of £10.42**

**Our Tariff 1 increase that we are proposing will bring us more or less into line with our 2 major operators in Barnsley, Blue Line and City. Our proposed increase would make a 2 mile journey ( classed as the average taxi journey) on par with them.**

**The increase is 30p on the flag and 20p on the mile thereafter and T2 &T3 to rise accordingly.**

**Hackney Carriage £4.50 + £1.80 = £6.30**

**Blue Line                    £4.50 + £1.80 =£6.30**

**City Taxis                    £4.00 +£2.20 = £6.20**

**The other proposed increases are in line with these tariffs**

**We very often struggle to get drivers out after midnight on a weekend but since the introduction of a Super tariff being charged (Tariff 4) there has been evidence of more drivers staying out longer so we want to keep this Tariff and increase it in line with the T1 increase.**

**We also request that T2 be charged on Sundays from 7am till Monday 7am the reason being that all drivers need time off and we need an incentive for more drivers to work Sundays period.**

**Tariff 4 is the 5/8 seater tariff and we wish to keep it as that and move the super tariff to a separate one creating T5**

**The T4 has not increased in proportion over the last two increases and we now wish to bring it into line with the proposed increase.**

**The Hackney Carriages of Barnsley cannot put up fares without the permission of the Licensing Board where as private hire companies can put them up whenever they feel necessary and this is sometimes reflected in the frequency that they do it where as Hackneys have to go through a process with the Board so this makes the process quite lengthy hence why we have to strike a fair and proportionate balance in rises.**

**We have said this before but need to say it again. We very often don't make the minimum wage throughout the week and it needs extra hours and the working of weekend shifts (NIGHTS) to make our wage up to a decent wage. Along with working nights and often having to put up with**



**the rowdy as well as decent citizens of the borough we try to offer a 24/7 service to the people of Barnsley and wish to continue doing so.**

**Regards Rob Taylor (Chairman BHCA)**

**Shaun Jeffers (Secretary BHCA)**

A copy of the additional information e-mail is attached as appendix 2.

The board last considered and increased the Hackney Carriage Tariff in September 2021.

A copy of the current table of fares is attached as Appendix 3

A copy of the proposed table of fares is attached as appendix 4.

#### **4. Proposal**

Members are asked to consider the request made by the Hackney Carriage Association to increase the Hackney Carriage fares and approve the same for advertisement in the local press.

Following the advertisement of the requested fare increase submit any views or objections to the Licensing Officer in writing no later than 14 days from the date of advertisement.

#### **5. Recommendation**

That Members consider the request and contribute to the consultation accordingly.

#### **6. Officer Contact**

Debbie Bailey

07786525961



## Bray , Melanie (COUNCIL GOVERNANCE OFFICER)

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**Subject:** FW: Hackney Carriage Fare Increase request.

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**From:** julie jeffers  
**Sent:** 03 April 2023 16:04  
**To:** Bailey , Debbie (SENIOR OFFICER (LICENSING))  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hackney Carriage Fare Increase request.

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**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

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Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Robert Taylor  
**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2023 4:03:05 PM  
**To:** julie jeffers  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hackney Carriage Fare Increase request.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robert Taylor  
**Date:** 31 March 2023 at 15:49:43 CEST  
**To:** Shaun Jeffers, Shane Spanner  
**Subject:** Hackney Carriage Fare Increase request.

Hi Debbie

Please could you forward our request to the Licensing Board for their attention.

After a recent Hackney Carriage meeting it was decided by the members unanimously to ask the board for a Hackney Carriage fare increase.

Since our last increase in 2021 we have had to endure a very tough time with Fuel prices rising to the highest levels in history and inflation running at above 10%

All drivers having to brunt the costs through this very difficult period.

We therefore are requesting the following increases to our Tariffs

T1 FLAG

An increase of 30p from £4.20 to £4.50

An increase of 20p on the mile thereafter from £1.60 to £1.80

T2

An increase of 30p from £5.00 to £5.30

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T3

In line with the tariff increases (double fare)

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A request to go from charging T4 after 1am to 7am Sunday morning (SUPER TARIFF) creating a fifth tariff, which keeps old T4 rates but with the same increases

T5

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Tariff 5 to be charged on ALL BANK HOLIDAYS 1am to 7am as on Sunday mornings

A further request is made for Hackney Carriages to charge T2 from SUNDAY 7am to MONDAY 7am

All other parts of the tariff to remain the same

It may be a lot in writing but the main fare increases are below inflation at 7.15 % and as the underlying mile increase as gone up by 12%, this has not increased since 2014 so just over 1% per year.

We are currently 298 in The National Hackney Fares out of 339 councils. This increase would bring us up to 252 still well below the average of other councils.

We believe these increase to be fair and proportionate in the current economy.

Kind Regards

Robert Taylor (Chairman BHCA)

Shun Jeffers (Secretary BHCA)

Shane Kilgariff (Vice Chairman BHCA)

Sent from my iPad

**Bray , Melanie (COUNCIL GOVERNANCE OFFICER)**

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**Subject:** FW: Taxi fare increase

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**From:** julie jeffers  
**Sent:** 04 April 2023 09:34  
**To:** Bailey , Debbie (SENIOR OFFICER (LICENSING))  
**Subject:** Taxi fare increase

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**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

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Hi Debbie

As you are aware we have just submitted a request for a Hackney Carriage Fare increase.

The main reason being that of the inflation rate, the cost of food, mortgages, rents energy, council tax, fuel, insurance, repairs, etc etc...

We like all other citizens of the country have to make a living wage that affords us to do all the above. Therefore we come to the board with our request.

In 2021 we was granted a fare increase that covered the rising cost of fuel and other costs but because we had to re submit and answer the licensing board of why? what? where? and miscellaneous questions, the rise left us behind private hires as fuel prices went through the roof. When we put our request in for our last increase fuel was at £1.36 p/l and our calculations were for an increase to counteract that but little did we know what was in store with Ukraine situation and inflation jumping to over 10% and fuel reaching 1.96 p/l but our hands were tied as we couldn't come back to licensing so quickly as it took over 3 months to get the last increase so we just had to endure it

We have recently lost drivers to the main 2 private hire companies and also to jobs that pay the minimum wage of £10.42

Our Tariff 1 increase that we are proposing will bring us more or less into line with our 2 major operators in Barnsley, Blue Line and City. Our proposed increase would make a 2 mile journey ( classed as the average taxi journey) on par with them.

The increase is 30p on the flag and 20p on the mile thereafter and T2 &T3 to rise accordingly.

Hackney Carriage £4.50 + £1.80 = £6.30

Blue Line £4.50 + £1.80 =£6.30

City Taxis £4.00 +£2.20 = £6.20

The other proposed increases are in line with these tariffs

We very often struggle to get drivers out after midnight on a weekend but since the introduction of a Super tariff being charged (Tariff 4) there has been evidence of more drivers staying out longer so we want to keep this Tariff and increase it in line with the T1 increase.

We also request that T2 be charged on Sundays from 7am till Monday 7am the reason being that all drivers need time off and we need an incentive for more drivers to work Sundays period.

Tariff 4 is the 5/8 seater tariff and we wish to keep it as that and move the super tariff to a separate one creating T5 The T4 has not increased in proportion over the last two increases and we now wish to bring it into line with the proposed increase.

The Hackney Carriages of Barnsley cannot put up fares without the permission of the Licensing Board where as private hire companies can put them up whenever they feel necessary and this is sometimes reflected in the frequency that they do it where as Hackneys have to go through a process with the Board so this makes the process quite lengthy hence why we have to strike a fair and proportionate balance in rises.

We have said this before but need to say it again. We very often don't make the minimum wage throughout the week and it needs extra hours and the working of weekend shifts (NIGHTS) to make our wage up to a decent wage.

Along with working nights and often having to put up with the rowdy as well as decent citizens of the borough we try to offer a 24/7 service to the people of Barnsley and wish to continue doing so.

Regards Rob Taylor (Chairman BHCA)

Shaun Jeffers (Secretary BHCA)

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)



## Hackney Carriage Tariff

Charges effective from  
14:30 on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Tariff 1 (for up to 4 passengers)

Standard fares (except for such periods as fall within Tariff 2 or Tariff 3)

**£4.20** First 1760 yards or part  
**10p** Each subsequent 110 yards or part  
**10p** Waiting / stationary – for each period of 30 seconds or part

### Tariff 2 (for up to 4 passengers)

Fares starting between 8pm and 7am and statutory Bank Holidays (except for such periods as fall within Tariff 3)

**£5.00** First 1760 yards or part  
**10p** Each subsequent 110 yards or part  
**10p** Waiting / stationary – for each period of 30 seconds or part

### Tariff 3 (for 1 to 8 passengers)

Fares between 8pm 24 December and 7am 27 December and 8pm 31 December to 7am 2 January

**£8.00** First 1760 yards or part  
**20p** Each subsequent 110 yards or part  
**20p** Waiting / stationary – for each period of 30 seconds or part

#### All fares shall:

- be calculated from when the hire commences
- not exceed the rates stated except when a journey starts or ends outside the Borough and another fare rate of fares is agreed before the hire commences.

### Tariff 4 (for 5 or more passengers and Sunday between 1am and 7am for 1 to 8 passengers)

Standard fares for 5 or more passengers (except for such periods as fall within Tariff 3)


**£5.40** First 1760 yards or part  
**15p** Each subsequent 110 yards or part  
**20p** Waiting / stationary – for each period of 30 seconds or part

#### Extras (charges marked # are not shown on the meter)

**50p** Dogs and other un-caged animals (except guide and other assistance dogs)  
**20p** Luggage stored in boot or designated area (excluding the first two items, wheelchairs or any other apparatus used to assist persons with a disability)  
**£80 #** For soiling or otherwise damaging the vehicle

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Hackney Carriage Tariff	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4	Tariff 5
	For up to four passengers. Standard fares (except for such periods as fall within Tariff 2 or Tariff 3)	For up to four passengers. Fares starting between 8pm and 7am and statutory Bank Holidays (except for such periods as fall within Tariff 3 or 5) and between 7am Sunday and 7am Monday	For 1-8 passengers. Fares between 8pm 24 December and 7am 27 December and 8pm 31 December to 7am 2 January	Standard fares for 5 or more seater vehicles/passengers (except for such periods as fall within Tariff 3 )	Fare for 1-4 passengers, any Sunday and any Bank Holiday from 1am until 7am (except for such periods as fall within Tariff 3)
Up to and including first mile	£4.50	£5.30	£9.00	£6.70	£5.70
Each subsequent complete mile	£1.80	£1.80	£3.60	£2.70	£2.70
Waiting / stationary – for each period of 30 seconds or part	10p	10p	20p	20p	20p
All fares shall: - be calculated from when the hire commences; not exceed the rates stated except when a journey starts or ends outside the Borough and another fare or rate of fares is agreed before the hire commences.					
<b>Extras</b>					
Charges marked # are shown on the meter	Dogs and other un-caged animals (except guide and other assistance dogs):	Luggage stored in boot or designated area (excluding the first two items, wheelchairs or any other apparatus used to assist persons with a disability)		For soiling or otherwise damaging the vehicle	
	50p	20p		£80 #	



# Item 4

**Report of the Assistant Director to the  
General Licensing Regulatory Board  
to be held on the 19 April 2023**

## **LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report, is to provide Members with an overview of the enforcement work Licensing Officers have recently undertaken.

### **2. Background**

Members are minded to note, that Licensing Officers have continued to proactively work with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade and other Local Authority Departments to ensure that any issues and concerns within the trades are raised and addressed accordingly.

In addition, on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Licensing Officers carried out a taxi and private hire licensing enforcement operation in the town centre. A summary of the enforcement operation is detailed below.

### **3. Current Position**

On the 24 February 2023 Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Officers from South Yorkshire Police took part in a night-time operation focusing their attention in Barnsley town centre and the drivers and vehicles that work in the night time economy.

The Chair of the Licensing Regulatory Board, Councillor S Green, was also in attendance.

In total 21 licensed vehicles and drivers were inspected on the night, including 5 vehicles that were licensed by other Local Authorities. The results of which are detailed as follows:

- 16 vehicles were found to be fully compliant
- 2 Vehicles were found to have defective lights being two number plate lights inoperative - both of which were rectified on the night and had their licences reinstated
- 1 vehicle was suspended for failing to display the required door signage
- 1 vehicle was suspended for having no front nearside door handle and incorrect door signage
- 1 vehicle was suspended for having no rear brake lights – this vehicle was repaired and had its licence reinstated on the night
- 5 drivers were issued with written warnings for failing to complete their daily vehicle checks
- 2 drivers were also spoken to about the signage on the vehicles and reminded of the required standard – being: -

**The vehicle when working must display on its front doors the words “Private Hire Vehicle Advanced Booking Only” and must display on the rear offside and near side doors of the vehicle the operator’s trade or business name and telephone number.**

**No other signs or words whatsoever shall be displayed.**

**The “Private Hire Vehicle Advanced Booking Only” signage must be in a contrasting colour to the vehicle, be at least 19” x 6” in area and be in a prominent position in the centre of the door panel.**

Vehicle non-compliance is an issue Officers are concerned with during the undertaking of each and every enforcement operation. Defective vehicles are not acceptable and cannot be excused, coupled with failing to complete basic vehicle inspection sheets, which is a tool that ensures the very safety of a licensed vehicle, is not acceptable.

**4. Proposal**

Proactive enforcement operations will continue to take place. Vehicle failures are always unacceptable, and our operations must convey the message that operators, vehicle proprietors and drivers must accept responsibility for their failures and make a change. We have clear standards that must be adhered to as failure to do so may put the safety of the public at risk when using a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle in Barnsley.

The principal consideration is, as always, one of public safety.

Members are asked to support Officers and encourage private hire and hackney carriage drivers and operators to comply with the conditions of their licence and continue to keep their vehicles as safe as possible for both drivers and customers at all times.

**5. Background Papers**

Enforcement Officer Reports which contain exempt information are not available for public inspection

**6. Officer Contact**

Debbie Bailey  
07786525961

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