

**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

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