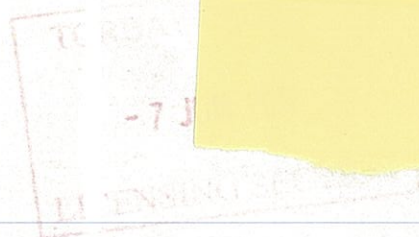


Dear Sir,

I note it is proposed to increase taxi fares in Torbay. I live at the top of a long, steep hill and do as much shopping as I can in Brixham and have other errands which take me into Brixham at least twice and often more a week. Even with the proposed increase I prefer to use taxis; it costs not much more than parking my car and I neither have to worry about finding a space nor have to clock-watch to be sure not to over-stay my time.

By its nature, a consultation usually only prompts those who object to respond. I think it is important that you know there are people who consider the taxis provide real value for money. Without a price increase a lot of the drivers will go out of business, which helps nobody.

Yours faithfully,



10<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Ms Francis Hughes  
Executive Head Community Safety  
Roebuck House  
Abbey Road  
Torquay  
TQ2 5EJ

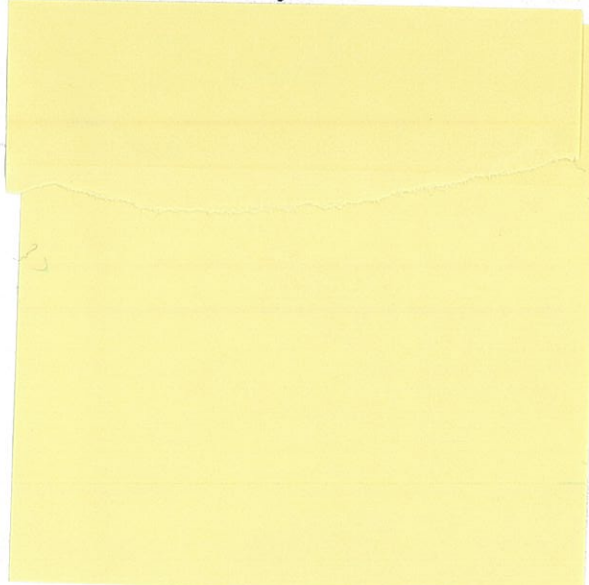
Ref: Licensing

TORBAY COUNCIL  
13 JUN 2011  
LICENSING SECTION

Dear Ms Hughes,

As a Hackney Carriage driver I write to formally object to the proposal by Torbay Licensed Taxi Association to increase fares by 6%. I accept that cost increases, particularly fuel are difficult to absorb but passing these increases on to customers simply will not work. Hackney Carriages are licensed for "immediate hire" and therefore rely predominantly on fares picked up from ranks. Private Hire Vehicles, our main competitors, rely on pre-booked fares and are already significantly cheaper than Hackney Carriages. According to an OFT report Private Hire Vehicles now have nearly 70% of the taxi market. An increase in Hackney Carriage fares will make us even less competitive and reduce further our market share. Any casual observer will have seen the large number of cabs waiting for fares even at busy periods at weekends. The AGM at which this increase was proposed was attended by only 20 members of the association of which only 15 voted for the increase. Importantly no formal notice of the AGM was sent to members. I do not believe therefore that there is a credible mandate for an increase in fares at the present moment and to do so would not be in the interests of the trade or the public.

Yours Sincerely



15 JUN 2011

Dear Ms. Hughes.

I am writing to you as a Hackney Carriage driver opposed to the proposed tariff increase for the following reasons:

1) Most taxi drivers were not aware of the

Taxi Association's AGM when the decision was taken to apply for a tariff increase, and although it is required that the association should write to members informing them of the time, date, and place, of the AGM, this was not done.

A notice of the meeting was displayed in the offices of some taxi companies, but most did not see it and consequently only about twenty people (including the committee) turned up.

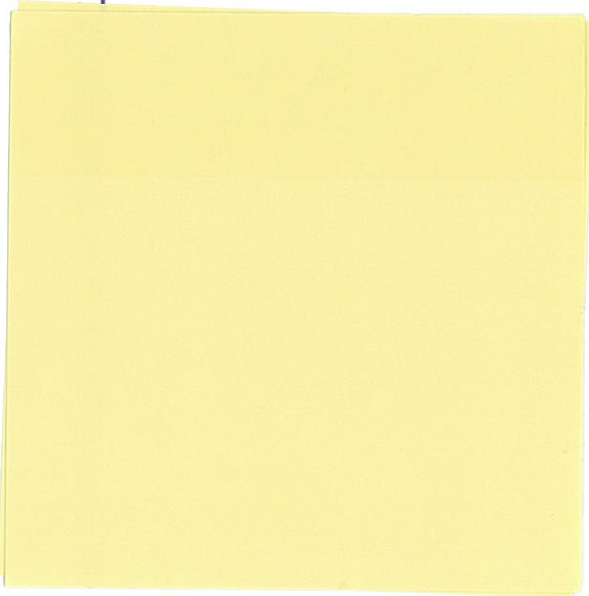
2) In the current financial situation where the Consumer Price Index is above 4% and many people face a wage freeze and/or redundancy, an increase in taxi fares can only be regarded as indulgent.

3.) Although petrol and diesel has recently become more expensive, so it has for everyone. Many businesses are prepared to absorb the extra costs and the taxi trade could do likewise, at least for the next twelve months.

4.) In the league table of taxi fares published by PRIVATE HIRE & TAXI MONTHLY, Torbay is placed 73<sup>RD</sup> out of 380 licensing authorities, and as such I do not see how a tariff increase can be justified.

I would be most obliged if this letter could be copied and given to the licensing committee for when they meet to consider objections.

Yours sincerely





Ref: Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase

21 June 2011

Dear Sirs

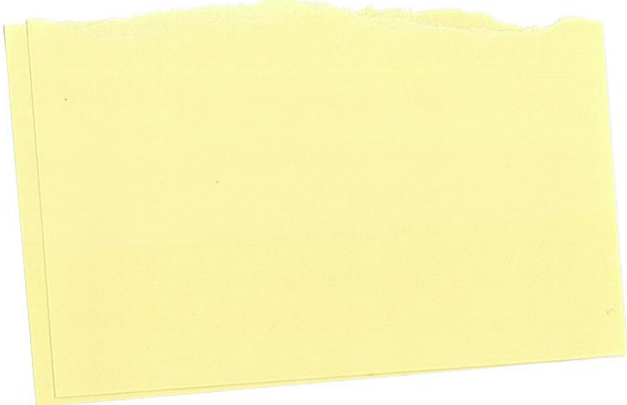
*We write to register our objections to the above increase for the following reasons:*

- As a licensed Hackney operator and driver we would like to play our part in improving the financial situation that we all find ourselves in. yes fuel and insurance costs have increased this year, likewise in July 2008 the date of the last tariff increase, but by xmas 2008 the price of fuel in particular had fallen and remained stable throughout 2009/2010. During this time nobody asked for a tariff reduction as we were all happy to take the money.*
- The decision to ask for a tariff increase was taken at the Torbay Taxi association AGM in March 2011. No formal written notification of the AGM was given so the majority of approx 400 Hackney drivers and plate owners did not attend. We believe only 22 members voters 12 for 10 against. This hardly represents the true feelings within the trade*
- You yourselves have had to make some difficult financial decisions this year .with the obvious objections, in this instance we believe the majority would support your decision if you declined the tariff increase.*


*Yours Sincerely,*



TORBAY COUNCIL  
17 JUN 2011  
ENVIRONMENT  
FOOD SAFETY



To whom it may concern,

I  would like to formally object to the proposed fare increase for Hackney Carriages. I place my objection on three main points.

Firstly, the taxi association meeting that voted on the proposal was not properly organised, members of the association (of which I am not a member) were not informed correctly or with in a decent amount of time in order to attend the meeting, and it appears that only a small hand picked section of the Hackney Carriage association attended the meeting, a total twenty people, and the vote was 12 for, 6 against and 2 abstentions, 12 people do not give an accurate feeling within the Hackney Carriage trade.

Secondly, we are currently in a recession, people within the borough of Torbay are having wage freezes, wage cuts, and some are losing their jobs. Unemployment figures are rising, inflation is rising and even yourselves at the council are having to save money because of budget cuts, it would be very inappropriate for us as a trade to add the pressure of increasing costs onto the already tight budgets of the general public in Torbay.

Thirdly, three years ago (2008) your licensing committee granted the Hackney Carriage association a rather large fare increase, the main reason given was a steep rise in fuel prices. At the time diesel within the bay had reached £1.30 plus per litre. Within a few months of being granted the rise, fuel prices steadily decreased down to £1.01 per litre. After being given the rise to help with fuel costs, the Hackney Carriage association did not seem fit to drop prices again after fuel had dropped, but instead had kept artificially high price for some 2 years. Now that fuel has reached the high level again (£1.30+ per litre) it would not be fair for us to ask for more money. Nearly every person in the Torbay area is having to trim their budgets and cut their over heads in order to make ends meet, and taxi drivers of Torbay who have had it good for so long should learn that they too need to trim their budgets and over heads.

Y

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