

I would like to request a deputation, to address the Licencing Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> January in relation to the Taxi Fare Review

There are a few issues that need to be added to the review process.

- 1) We need to achieve a process where the trade do not have to wait for a Fare Review to be instigated, each time Aberdeen International Airport decide to increase their charges for Taxi Drivers to drop off and pick up customers from the Airport. In simplistic terms whatever AIA are charging Taxi Drivers, we should be allowed to pass on to the customer. I have attached Aberdeenshire's Tariff Card, which allows Aberdeenshire Taxi Drivers to do this, why can't the Aberdeen City Tariff Card not reflect the same ?
- 2) Currently, to pick up a customer at Aberdeen International Airport, Aberdeen Taxi Drivers are not permitted to pass on the Car Park Charge to their customers. At present the minimum charge to exit Airport Car Park is £4. We would suggest that a Maximum charge of whatever the Drop Off charge is, should be permitted to be passed onto the customer, currently that is £3. As things are at the moment, if a driver complies to Airport rules, picking up a customer within the Car Park costs £4, even on a £20 hire, driver is losing 20%, there is no one on this Committee who can think that is fair ?

Moving into the Fare Review Report.

Committee has before it 2 proposals, Option A, No Change & Option B, Decrease the basic tariff by 10%

Using a formula, is and has been, what has been accepted by all concerned for a number of revues, however after 2 years of a global pandemic, there has to some form of common sense applied. If we take a brief look at the Formula:

Without using the Average National Earnings, what would this Committee think, if the trade were sitting here today asking for a near 15% increase ? I would suggest that there is not a chance that anyone within our trade would have the audacity to even ask the question, but, by using the formula that is what the numbers would support. Before anyone gets the wrong idea, that is not what we are looking for.

Trade has little argument with the vehicle costs etc. However using a Hybrid for fuel consumption at this point may be a bit early. I would imagine no more than 10% of the fleet are currently Electric or Hybrid, that of course will change over the coming years, but we are not there yet. Which means that fuel costs are understated.

Taking the Average National Wage: For almost all of the time scale these numbers have been taken from, we have been dealing with a Global Pandemic. For the first 12 months of this, more than half the Scottish workforce have retained their employment, only for the grace of the furlough scheme, many as we know, lost their jobs and were earning nothing. We should not forget, furlough was paying 80% of peoples salary. So a simple sum £30,472 add back the 20% gives you a total of £36,566, against the £36,611 from 2020. With furlough and the job losses, that easily accounts for the minus 16.77% of lost earnings. This is not where we are now.

All respected economic experts are forecasting that the cost of living will increase, maybe for the next 2 years, but certainly for next 12 months. Energy cost are astronomical, food costs continue to rise,

our fuel costs show no sign of reducing, interest cost have now started to increase, which impacts on Mortgages, finance for car, all things that Taxi Drivers have to pay. We are not except from life, believe it or not we all take part in the same world as all of you.

Finally, can I just point out, any increase we do get, does not go straight into our pockets, as some members of public seem to think, it helps us to maintain a living wage, while dealing with increased costs, just like everyone else.

I would propose the following changes:

First 940 Yards: £2.80 ( £2.60 currently )

Every Additional 160 Yards: 0.20 ( unchanged )

Waiting: £26.00 per hour ( £24.60 currently )

In addition. Tariff Card should allow driver to add whatever the current Third Part Charge is for Dropping at AIA. See Aberdeenshire Tariff Card attached.

Any pre booked hire from the Airport, driver should be permitted to charge whatever the current rate is for Drop Off area as a maximum charge.

Am aware that it is Committee's discretion when my deputation is heard, but I would prefer if it were at the time the report was being considered.

Russell McLeod

Regards,

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