

Appendix D(2)

To the Borough Council of Wellingborough Licensing Department.

Amanda has asked for some evidence to support the requested increase to the tariff for Hackney Carriages.

As you are aware the last tariff increase for Hackney Carriages licensed by the Borough Council of Wellingborough was in October 2011, some ten years ago. Since then, the Hackney Carriage proprietors have continually absorbed significant increases in costs to operate. The ongoing cost of buying sanitizer and face coverings owing to the pandemic alone have impacted on the drivers and operators.

Below, in no particular order we present some evidence to support our request.

Between 2011 and 2021 the total increase in inflation is currently 28%. The Bank of England's deputy Governor Ben Broadbent warned recently that inflation could "comfortably exceed" 5 per cent by spring 2022.

The tariff increase request is less than this 28% inflation rise.

The National Minimum Wage has risen from £6.19 per hour in 2012 to £8.91 at present with a forecast of it being £9.50 per hour in April 2022. This represents an increase of 53% since the last tariff increase.

Most drivers are not reaching this at present.

Fees paid to yourselves to be able to operate and drive a Hackney Carriage have increased during this period also.

Fuel prices have risen sharply.

The cost of routine maintenance and the repair of vehicles has increased since 2011. One operator who operates a Ford vehicle commented that an oil filter for his taxi has increased by 25% since 2020.

All operators who were questioned have seen increases to their servicing and repair bills as no doubt members of the committee who own a vehicle have felt similar.

We ask that the committee, in deciding on our request to increase the tariff will appreciate and understand the financial position of the drivers and operators licensed by The Borough Council of Wellingborough.

The association also asks the committee to consider separately the granting of a regular rolling increase to the tariff as below:

Every 2nd year a rise on the fare of 10 pence per mile.

In addition:

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Every 4th year a rise to the start tariff of 20 pence, both to be implemented automatically.

We would like this regular increase to be considered separately to the request of an increase to the tariff which is primary and do not wish it to jeopardise the main application of raising the tariff.

The association has been asked for reasoning to our request to a rolling increase.

We suggest that an increase every two years should offset the continue rise in inflation and provide transparency for the general public to plan and manage financial impacts. Alternatively the Committee might prefer an annual tariff increase in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The association would be grateful that after reading our evidence that the Committee would look favourable at our request for an increase to the tariff.

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Wellingborough Hackney Carriage Association.