

APPENDIX C – CONSULTATION RESPONSES – FEES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING 2018/19

Response Number	Date Received	Comment	Date Responded	Response
1	20/11/2017	<p>Dear Yvonne</p> <p>In reference to the above, the only comment I have is to suggest that the Council ought to provide a service to upgrade our meters free of charge.</p> <p>In this day and age, I think both the Public and the Council would expect licensed taxis to have meters. After all, the fare charts supplied by the Council free of charge implies this. I think it is quite wrong therefore, that all taxis should have to pay Panther a some of £10 for this privilege. It takes less than a minute to upgrade the meters and therefore Panther are making a not inconsiderable sum for very little effort.</p> <p>I very much hope you will take this into account when you set the charges for 2018-19.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> 	05/12/2017	<p>Thank you for your response to the consultation on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees for 2018/19.</p> <p>Whilst Cambridge City Council is responsible for setting the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares, it is the trade that submit requests for fare increases or changes.</p> <p>The table of fares represents the maximum amount that can be charged for journeys in Hackney Carriage Vehicles beginning and ending within Cambridge City. Although display of the current fare card is legal requirement, vehicle proprietors are under no obligation to re-calibrate their meter if they do not so wish. Although I imagine most would have the taximeter re-calibrated, in order to benefit from an increase to the fare, it remains voluntary.</p> <p>I would also like to point out that although the Council provides the fare cards free of charge to vehicle proprietors, the cost to produce the fare cards comes out of the taxi licensing budget.</p> <p>The Council is aware that during the latest fare change there were less service providers available to re-calibrate taximeters. With that being said I understand Panther only offer the service for certain brands of meters e.g. Digitax and Cygnus, and those with other makes of taximeter have had to seek alternative arrangements. There was, for example, a gentleman working at Cambridge Railway Station recently re-calibrating Viking meters.</p> <p>In light of the above the Council views the re-calibrating of taximeters as a private matter and is therefore not minded at this time to provide a free service for re-calibrating taximeters. Please be advised, however, that I shall be adding your comments to the committee report due to go before members of the Licensing Committee on Monday 29th January 2018. If you would like to speak at the meeting, in relation to the proposed fee structure, then please let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements.</p>

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<p>2</p>	<p>21/11/2017</p>	<p>Dear Yvonne O'Donnel,thank you for latest Consultation letter which as a Hackney Carriage licence holder I read with interest and noted that most of your proposed increases affect myself and other hackney licence holders as against private hire.</p> <p>Is this because we are a captive market for the city council as against private hire who can always licence with South Cambs ?</p> <p>Given the increase you have given the entire trade I'm amazed that the council sees fit to increase any charges across the whole trade especially when you are penalising Hackney Carriage licence holders by forcing them into A livery and cctv requirement none of us want As I have not spoken with anyone who wants the above it would seem that the city council do not listen to the taxi trade and the consultations you send out are just paying lip service to the requirements of the 1976 act and will vote through amendments that favour yourselves.</p> <p>Pherhaps you could advise me of what recourse myself and our licence holders have in these matters legally or other.</p> <p>Yours faithfully </p>	<p>05/12/2017</p>	<p>Thank you for your response to the consultation on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees for 2018/19.</p> <p>The cost to Cambridge City Council of this work is regularly checked and real time costs have replaced estimates in compiling the figures. Where it is possible to reduce costs by use of more efficient working this is reflected in the charges made.</p> <p>Each element of the licensing process has been reviewed and considered in order to calculate the fees in an open and fair way.</p> <p>As you are aware, the Council is required to review the charges which it makes for licences and other associated items, from time to time. The Council must seek to recover the costs associated with processing applications for licences and the administration and monitoring of compliance with conditions. However, it is not permitted to make a surplus nor to subsidise licence holders. The fees charged should be capable of withstanding legal challenge, should the need arise.</p> <p>The Council is therefore able to demonstrate that the fees it charges for licences have been set in accordance with the law and best practice, so as to recover its allowable costs in administering the various licensing regimes for which it is responsible.</p> <p>In relation to your specific comments. I would first like to highlight that it is Private Hire Operators that have had their fees increased the most out of all the proposed changes.</p> <p>Secondly, the changes to the policy with respect to livery and CCTV conditions were ones suggested by the trade and not the Council. When members of the Licensing Committee reviewed all the responses received to the consultation in October 2017 they were satisfied that the above initiatives, when fully implemented, would contribute to the policy objective of public protection.</p> <p>As you may be aware, following the Rotherham Child Sexual Exploitation Scandal that implicated a number of taxi drivers,</p>
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			<p>the chair of the enquiry recommended that CCTV be installed in all taxis across the country. Several licensing authorities have brought in such a condition such as Warrington, Southampton and Brighton & Hove. South Cambridgeshire District Council is currently consulting on bringing in a similar CCTV condition.</p> <p>Following the committee decision the Council received a letter of objection from the trade. The Council has now responded to this letter detailing that due process to consult on the matter was followed and that if further recourse was desired then an application for judicial review would need to be submitted to challenge the policy decisions.</p> <p>The Environmental Health Manager is now seeking to meet with trade representatives within the next couple of weeks to start formulating implementation plans to submit to the March meeting of Licensing Committee. The Council is keen to work and engage with the trade in order to produce implementation plans that are practical, appropriate and take into account any financial burden that would be incurred by the trade.</p> <p>I hope you find the above information useful. I shall be adding your comments to the committee report due to go before members of the Licensing Committee on Monday 29th January 2018. If you would like to speak at the meeting, in relation to the proposed fee structure, then please let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements.</p>
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<p>3</p>	<p>24/11/2017</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Dear Yvonne O'Donnell</p> <p>1) Re - charges for Taxi Marshalling</p> <p>As a private hire driver I do not use the ranks and have never worked at night. I feel it would be very unfair to charge us as we don't use the ranks and drivers such as those on South Cambs and others would not pay a charge. This is a service for Hackney Carriage Vehicles only!</p> <p>2) Door Signs</p> <p>I have noticed recently quite a number of private hire vehicles dropping and picking up at the main station without door signs! I believe some are Uber drivers but not all. Could the council do something about this.</p> <p>Yours Faithfully</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>05/12/2017</p>	<p>Thank you for your response to the consultation on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees for 2018/19.</p> <p>I shall be adding your comments to the committee report due to go before members of the Licensing Committee on Monday 29th January 2018.</p> <p>In relation to your comments concerning door signs I can advise you of the following.</p> <p>Not all licensing authorities require the Private Hire Vehicles they licence to display door signs, this includes those licensed by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Transport for London. The Council is, however, providing a greater enforcement presence at Cambridge Rail Station and we do regularly submit checks concerning unmarked vehicles to Private Hire Operators to ascertain whether they are appropriately licensed.</p> <p>I hope you find the above information useful. If you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to contact me at this office.</p>
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