

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Fees - Representations Received

Representation / Objection	From	Officer comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle Transfer was set at £75.00 in 2016. The rise to £100 is a 33.3% increase, much higher than inflation for the period. • Replacement Badge was set at £10.00 in 2016. The rise to £25.00 is an increase of 150%. This is unduly excessive. • Replacement Rear Plate was set at £12.00 in 2016. The rise to £35.00 is an increase of 191.66%. This is unduly excessive. Front Plate increase also excessive 	Driver no. DR417	<p>Officers acknowledge that this increase is higher than an inflationary increase. The last recorded change to the current fees was in 2009/10.</p> <p>The Local Government Association introduced guidance on “locally set fees” in 2014 to help authorities understand what may be included in the fee structure. This guidance, and associated case law, led officers to conduct a thorough review of all current processes to ensure they are only charging for the appropriate administration of the regime (Hemming v Westminster) and they are administering its funds so as to protect the interests of council tax payers (R v Tower Hamlets LBC) i.e. not subsidising a process.</p> <p>The fees therefore are a reflection of the process rather than merely a roll over increase from the last change.</p>
<p>I also feel the jump to a 3 year driver licence, paid in advance, is an onerous cost to bear, particularly as the taxi trade has not had a fare increase for over 7 years. This might be more tolerable if there was significant discount applied to its implementation.</p>	Driver no. DR417	<p>The Deregulation Act 2015, introduced so as to remove or reduce burdens on business, established a standard duration of three years for taxi driver licences. Licensing authorities may grant a licence for a period of less than three years but only in the circumstances of an individual case, not because of a blanket policy.</p> <p>A detailed review of the licensing regime highlighted that the process for a 3 year licence is almost identical to that of an annual licence with the applications and background checks being repeated each year. Moving to a 3 year licence means drivers need not go through the same process for following years.</p> <p>It should be noted that as the process is the same for a 3 year licence as an annual licence then the cost each year will be the same (save for any costs linked to 3 yearly processes e.g. DBS, medical).</p> <p>The 3 yearly cycle will start when the DBS is due.</p> <p>Whilst it appears to make good business sense to have a 3 year licence some drivers may encounter difficulties in meeting this one off cost. Officers are proposing to offer payment by instalments for the first year of implementation (2018) where the DBS is due.</p>

		<p>Where applicants are outside their DBS anniversary officers will offer drivers pro-rata rates up to the DBS renewal. If they opt to have a new annual licence at that time they will be required to pay the full annual rates.</p> <p>Where there is a need for an annual licence due to policy e.g. annual medical, officers will be implement a process to manage those requirements within a 3 year licence.</p>
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