

**Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
Taxis (and Private Hire Cars fitted with Taxi Meters) - Review of Fare
Tariff**

Report by John Blair, Director, Resources

1 Background

On 29 September 2015, the Committee agreed to proceed with the review of the Taxi (and Private Hire Cars fitted with Taxi Meters) Fares Tariff at the existing level (**Appendix 1**). Public Notice of the proposal was given in The Advertiser on 15 October 2015.

2 Consultation

Initially, the Midlothian Taxi Owners' Association agreed to support the *status quo*; and accordingly, Public Notice of the proposal was given in that basis, giving until 15 November 2015 for the receipt of representations. No representations have been made as yet in relation to that. The Chief Constable has been consulted and has no comment to make about the review.

However, by letter, dated 29 October 2015, the Association (**Appendix 2** (the last page bearing the signatures has been redacted)) intimate that they have reconsidered their position and request that an increase for the initial tariff ie for a distance not exceeding 339m or for the initial period of waiting time of 60 seconds or for a combination of time and distance, of either 60p or 80p be applied to Tariff One; and 50p to Tariff Two, as shown in **Appendices 3 and 4**.

3 Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4 Effect of increase

	flag	Mile	mile x 2	mile x 10	flag	mile	mile x 2	mile x 10
current	£2.20	3.70	5.61	20.89	£2.70	4.20	6.11	21.33
Proposal 1	£2.80	4.30	6.21	21.49	£3.20	4.70	6.61	21.89
% increase	27.37	11.90	10.69	2.89	18.52	11.90	8.18	2.34
Proposal 2	£3.00	4.50	6.41	21.69	3.20	4.70	6.61	21.89
% increase	36.36	21.62	14.26	3.83	18.52	11.90	8.18	2.34

5 Statutory Framework

As indicated above, the statutory requirements as regards public notice of the initial proposals have been met. However, it may be thought best that, as the new proposals by the Association are significantly higher initially (at the level at which probably most will be - of the Flag Drop and over the first mile or two, there is justification in providing Public Notice of these in terms of a new review.

6 Implementation

There is a right of appeal to the Traffic Commissioners for the Scottish Traffic Area.

7 Conclusion

There has been insufficient time to consider the detailed aspects of the Association's revised position. At first sight and without further discussion with the Association, it may appear that the proposed increase to the initial drop is excessive (but if spread over the rest of the Tariff, it could appear more manageable).

The Meter Companies will require four weeks notice of any increase.

Statutory Notice has been given. However, unless the Association's proposal(s) is / are considered reasonable, as it / they increase the initial charges to a level that is significantly higher over the first mile or two, there may be justification for providing Public Notice of these in terms of a new review.

The Tariff has been reviewed at intervals of 18 months as required by Statute; and was increased to the current level in 2008, at a level that was designed to mitigate the effect of expected increases in the price of fuel oil to about £1.40 per litre which never materialised. Fuel levels are currently about £1.08 per litre.

The Association has not given any evidence of need for the proposed increases or identified which of the alternatives they prefer.

8 Recommendation

The Committee may wish to consider:-

- (a) In order to comply with the legislation, remitting to the Director in consultation with the Chair, to approve the adoption of existing fare tariff, with effect from 14 December 2015, if no further representations are received; and
- (b) In respect of the Association's proposals to carry them forward for consideration in terms of the next review and authorise the Officers to enter into discussion with the Association and report back; or remit the matter to the Hire Car Liaison Group for consideration and a report back.

JOHN BLAIR
Director

2 November 2015

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Background Papers:

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APPENDIX 1

Review of Fare Tariff

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Taxi (and Private Hire Cars fitted with Taxi Meters) Fares

For 1 or 2 passengers	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4
For the initial hire not exceeding 339m For the initial period of waiting time of 60 seconds For a combination of time and distance	£2.20	£2.70	£3.80	£4.00
For each additional 168.3m For each additional 30 seconds of waiting time For a combination of additional time and distance	£0.20	£0.20	£0.35	£0.35

Monday to Friday	
Tariff 1 – Monday – Friday 6am – 6pm	Tariff 2 – 6pm to 6am and, at weekends, from 6am on Saturday to 6am Monday

Christmas and New Year – Between 6pm on 24 December and 6am on 27 December and 6pm on 31 December and 6am on 3 January	
Tariff 3 – Monday – Friday 6am – 6pm	Tariff 4 – 6pm to 6am and, at weekends, from 6am on Saturday to 6am on Monday

Only 2 children under 12 years will be reckoned as one passenger. No extra fare will be charged for one child under 5 years. Each passenger must be properly seated.

Extra Payments	
When more than 2 passengers - £0.20 each Cleaning Fee – Travel Sickness - £20.00 Credit/Debit card payments - £1.00	Pre-bookings – Call Out Charge - £0.60 Cancellation Fee - £2.00

APPENDIX 2

Midlothian Taxi Owners Association

FAO Mr Attack
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith EH22 1DN

29 October 2015

Re - Proposed Tariff rise

Dear Mr Attack

With reference to our previous e-mail to you regarding a meeting with MTOA members about a possible tariff rise. With the members present on the night of the meeting, the voting went as follows.

Fifteen members present. Voting for Yes to a fare rise: - 6 members, and 5 proxy votes for the same, = 11

Voting for No to a fare rise: - 9 members, and 3 proxy votes for the same, = 12

Voting for yes, 11 votes. Voting for no 12 votes. A very close result!

This has resulted in many discussions within the trade, and with some owners having now changed their minds; it was decided to create a petition in order to assess the little number of votes for yes, and no. This resulted in 28 signatures for yes. This figure being more than half the taxi plate holders! Copy of the petition is enclosed.

Unfortunately, it is the opinion of many owners that over the past few years, meetings held to discuss a possible fare rise have been deliberately "sabotaged" by certain members that allegedly raise a few bodies to vote down a fare rise. It is also the case that some of these persons only work part time in the trade as they hold full time jobs elsewhere.

Hopefully, this petition will show the Councillors the true feelings of the majority of the full time taxi drivers.

Proposals to the change of tariff are as follows.

No changes to the yardage or distance.

Tariff one: - to go up by 60 or 80 pence.

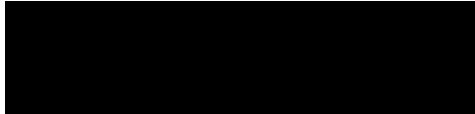
Tariff two: - to go up by 50 pence.

Tariff three & four. No major change, just the fare rise adjustment.

The MTOA would appreciate you bringing this letter to the attention of the Midlothian Councillors at the upcoming General Purposes Meeting.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter. We await your reply.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Midlothian taxi owners

After eight years without a fare increase the owners listed below would ask Midlothian council to consider allowing an increase to our tariffs to help cover every increasing costs.

<u>Plate number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
No. 36	Colin Anderson		5-10-15
No. 50	Alex Steele		5/10/15
No. 41	Keith Dorans		5/10/15
No. 11	Martin Allan		5/10/15
No. 23	Gerry McCabe		5/10/15
No. 25	Russell Rankin		6/10/15
No. 49	Stephen Curran		6/10/15
No. 27	J. Blain		6.10.15
No. 24	Grant Hutchison		6-10-15
No. 40	W Dickson		6-10-15
No. 51	S Milligan		6-10-15
No. 5	S Taylor		6-10-15
No. 16	J Taylor		6-10-15
No. 52	Neil Wiseman		7-10-15
No. 21	C Osborne		7/10/15
No. 43	A Palys		7/10/15
No. 37	K McDonald		7/10/15
No. 9	D Carson		8/10/15
No. 19	M Grealis		8/10/15
No. 47	E. Brady		10-10-15
No. 53	C. Farquharson		12.10.15
No. 2	S Birrell		19-10-15
No. 46	A. Adams		23-10-15

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<u>Plate number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
No. 15	D Stewart		13/10/15
No. 6	Jim Burnett		19/10/15
No. 28	M Thomas		20/10/15
No. 38	I Diamond		23/10/15
	S Adams		23/10/15

APPENDIX 3

Review of Fare Tariff – Showing Increase of 60p and 50p on Tariffs 1 and 2 respectively

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Taxi (and Private Hire Cars fitted with Taxi Meters) Fares

For 1 or 2 passengers	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4
For the initial hire not exceeding 339m For the initial period of waiting time of 60 seconds For a combination of time and distance	£2.80	£3.20	£3.80	£4.00
For each additional 168.3m For each additional 30 seconds of waiting time For a combination of additional time and distance	£0.20	£0.20	£0.35	£0.35

Monday to Friday	
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Only 2 children under 12 years will be reckoned as one passenger. No extra fare will be charged for one child under 5 years. Each passenger must be properly seated.

Extra Payments	
When more than 2 passengers - £0.20 each Cleaning Fee – Travel Sickness - £20.00 Credit/Debit card payments - £1.00	Pre-bookings – Call Out Charge - £0.60 Cancellation Fee - £2.00

APPENDIX 4

Review of Fare Tariff – Showing Increase of 80p and 50p on Tariffs 1 and 2 respectively

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Taxi (and Private Hire Cars fitted with Taxi Meters) Fares

For 1 or 2 passengers	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4
For the initial hire not exceeding 339m For the initial period of waiting time of 60 seconds For a combination of time and distance	£3.00	£3.20	£3.80	£4.00
For each additional 168.3m For each additional 30 seconds of waiting time For a combination of additional time and distance	£0.20	£0.20	£0.35	£0.35

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Only 2 children under 12 years will be reckoned as one passenger. No extra fare will be charged for one child under 5 years. Each passenger must be properly seated.

Extra Payments	
When more than 2 passengers - £0.20 each Cleaning Fee – Travel Sickness - £20.00 Credit/Debit card payments - £1.00	Pre-bookings – Call Out Charge - £0.60 Cancellation Fee - £2.00