

Response 1

A number of Council Licencing Departments throughout England have made a statement on their tariff card concerning the payment that Hackney Carriage Drivers or Companies will add to the fare to cover additional expenses incurred by accepting card payments. Locally Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight have adjusted their tariff card. The problem is that the cost to the driver or company varies so to put a specific amount or percentage on the tariff card might not cover the costs for everyone.

Would you be kind enough to confirm the need for an additional statement on the Tariff Card?

If needed could the statement be generalised rather than specific, for example, the same statement as Southampton City Council, which is

‘CARD PAYMENT – If payment is made by credit or debit card, a sum not exceeding that permitted by law shall be added to the fare’ **or**

‘CARD PAYMENT - Additional charges may be made in accordance with The Consumer Rights (Payment Surcharge) Regulations 2012’.

Some of the Associations members are convinced that a statement is required to keep the trade acting legally.

Response 2

As per your recent newsletter I request the following alterations to the tariff :-

1. Pull off Charge to be increased to £2.40 for 1st 190 meters.
2. Scrapping of the 10p charge for dogs other than assistance dogs.
3. Additional Charge for pick ups from Fareham Station to be increased to £1.00.
4. Charge for extra passengers over 2 increase to 50p for each additional person.
5. Charge for items of luggage (not shopping bags) carried outside the passenger area to be increased to 50p per item.
6. Additional item added to Tariff - "**Card payment** – If payment is made by credit or debit card, a sum not exceeding that permitted by law shall be added to the fare"
7. Soiling Charge - Maximum of £50.

All other charges to remain the same.

In order to justify the above & in my capacity as Managing Director of Radio Taxis (Fareham) who operate in excess of 75 Hackney Carriages in Fareham I would like to make the following observations.

When we had the last large tariff increase in 2008 Radio Taxis suffered a significant loss of business in 2009. Part of this could be put down to the start of the recession, however we believe the major detrimental effect on our business was due to the large tariff increase in 2008. Smaller annual or every other year increases would be more acceptable to customers and have less effect on your business. (nobody notices 2/3p on a loaf of bread/pint of milk but a large 20p increase would be noticed by a large number of people)

A 20p increase on the pull off charge would take account of inflation over the last six years and would bring us in to line with both Gosport and Portsmouth at £5.60 for 2 miles. (we are at present at £5.40 as detailed in the July issue of PHTM, which I can supply you a copy if you wish, this lists all Hackney Tariffs in England and Wales)

Very few taxis charge 10p for dogs - if they indeed take them. (We are bound by law to take assistance dogs for which there is no charge) it seems a rather trivial amount to bother with and should be removed. Note neither Portsmouth or Southampton have this charge.

Fareham Station Pass was £239 in 2010 (was around £200 in 2008) - for 2014 it was £311 !! So has increased by 55% - 60p to £1 would just cover this.

10p per extra passenger over two, it has been this for donkeys years - with the extra wear & tear carrying 4 people on Saloon Cars 50p is justified - this would also help the multi-seaters out with their significantly higher running costs.

10p per item of luggage - same as above in terms of time it has existed - but 50p per item only to be charged for items of luggage in the boot/hatch area. n

No Charge for shopping bags. (Note 50p is only a half a cup of tea these days or a third of a cup of coffee !)

More and more customers want to pay by credit/debit card this wording covers any Government laws that may be passed in the future.

Soiling Charge increase takes account of inflation between 2008-2014.

These are obviously the maximum fares allowable - if certain parts of the taxi trade in Fareham do not want increases they are quite at liberty to continue charging the old tariff as it is would be less than the new charges.

Response 3

I would like the trade to consider a tariff increase for this year!

Response 4

we would like to confirm in writing that we believe there should be an increase in taxi fares this year.

Our reasons for this are twofold. Firstly the cost of fuel and living has gone up since fares were last raised, and secondly we are concerned that there will be a repeat of what happened last time - namely that we held off for so long that when rates were finally raised it was by such a large amount that it came as a shock to customers and hit them hard and therefore use of taxis was reduced as a result. In our opinion it would be preferable to raise rates regularly but by small amounts. We believe the ideal amount to raise fares at the moment would be between 2 and 3 per cent to match the increase in the cost of living over the last year.