

Email Costs Received from East Devon Taxi Association

24 July 2022

Dear Sirs,

Following the hiatus in moving forward the request from the East Devon Taxi Association to consider the issue of taxi fares, we thought it would be appropriate to collect and collate specific costs that continue to impact taxi drivers. I have gathered this information from various taxi drivers and I have only included costs that affect both the independent single driver taxi as well as an owner who has multiple vehicles.

Examples include:

Cost of taxi purchase and set up

Fuel

Parts

Garage costs + extras

COST OF TAXI PURCHASE & SET UP

A typical secondhand taxi is a Ford Focus, just under the required 4 years old. Up until 2021 these were available at about £5000.00. A comparable car will now cost £7,400.00.

Starting up in the business of taxi driving requires significant investment.

After the purchase of the vehicle there is:

Taxi meter about £1000

Insurance about £1400

Medical about £100

Taxi driving test

EDDC & DCC fees

The following statistics show the increase in price over the last 2 years of the essential extras. Prices are from eBay.

Hackney/private hire cab roof sign - 18" yellow magnetic top light box was £29.90 now up to £39.50 Top hat lead was £8.99 now up to £14.98 Taxi body mount antenna was £15.90 now up to £22.45 Window wind deflectors (needed due to COVID) £25.95 First Aid Medical Bag was £11.99 now up to £14.99

FUEL

Using the AA fuel price reports from 2020 and 2022 we can see that diesel in the SW was in April 2020 115.8 (pence per litre) and in 2022 it has risen to 196.5 pence per litre. This equates to a massive 69% increase.

TYRES

During the year 2021 tyre prices rose 20% and have maintained this since.

PARTS

Examples of commonly needed parts:

Information from GFS car parts verifies the price increases from 2018 to 2022 Front brake pads £11.80 up to £15.92 Brake Discs £31.12 up to £47.67 Clutch kit £145.63 up to £161.81 Flywheel £134 up to £151.73 Oil £15.53 up to £21.99 Gloves £3.99 a box up to £8.99 a box

GARAGE COSTS

Local small garages charge about £60.00 per hour and main dealers about £95.00 per hour for repairs.

Our local Car Wash has increased prices from £15.00 to £25.00 per vehicle.

Appendix D

These figures speak for themselves in showing how margins have been eroded over the last 2 years. Fuel increases are massive and ever present.

We need an increase that will allow taxis to run profitably, to help with retention of drivers which is a big issue now and indeed to support future recruitment.

There has been confusion relating to the range of words used to describe the fares. Can we make it clear exactly what we are suggesting that we believe would be fair to both drivers and passengers.

We have looked carefully at the tables of maximum fares as issued to us by EDDC in 2020 and 2022 and need to reject the April 2022 table which shows only a 10% flag price increase. This does little to help with covering the actual cost of the complete journey.

We are asking therefore that you go back to the 2020 position. So the new flag charge increase of 15% would be based on:

Tariff 1 at £3.50 (up to £4.00) and Tariff 2 at £4.00 (up to £4.60).

In addition there would be a 15% increase per mile thereafter.

Therefore the drivers table of maximum fares "the price guide" would be as follows:

PRICE GUIDE

To hire this taxi on tariff 1

First half-mile £4.00 (up from £3.50)

First mile £4.80 (up from £4.20)

For each mile thereafter £2.40 (up from £2.10)

2 miles £7.20 (up from £6.30)

3 miles £9.60 (up from £8.40)

5 miles £14.40 (up from £12.60)

10 miles £26.40 (up from £23.10)

PRICE GUIDE

To hire this taxi on tariff 2

First half-mile £4.60 (up from £4.00)

First mile £6.00 (up from £5.25)

For each mile thereafter £2.85 (up from £2.50)

2 miles £8.85 (up from £7.75)

3 miles £11.70 (up from £10.25)

5 miles £17.40 (up from £15.25)

10 miles £31.65 (up from £27.75)

Most of you will be car owners and drivers and are experiencing increases to your very modest car usage - taxis by their very nature are driving hundreds of miles each week and the are experiencing the full force of these increases. Taxi drivers often do more and more hours each week in an attempt to militate against some of the increases affecting them.

We must not lose too many drivers - taxis are an essential mode of transport in this area providing many short fares as well as longer journeys to all.

We would ask you to give your most serious consideration to this request.

East Devon Taxi Association