

Taxi Trade Consultation Responses

1.	
Respondent:	Hackney Carriage Driver - Exmouth
Fare rise necessary:	No
Attending:	Not confirmed.
Supporting documents	None
Summary of key points	I don't believe a fare increase is necessary at this time as there are less people getting taxis now as it is and an increase will just push more of the trade away. I also believe we shouldn't be increasing the cost of living for people especially pensioners who quite often rely on taxis to get them to appointments or even just to be able to get into town to get the essentials.

2.	
Respondent:	Hackney Carriage Driver and Proprietor - Sidmouth
Fare rise necessary:	No
Attending:	No
Supporting documents	None
Summary of key points	I strongly object to another price increase. The only provision I would be happy with is that when (if) fuel prices return to the pre-war levels then a fare reduction, back to the current rate, would be implemented. Also I feel that an add on charge for Airport drop off fees should be introduced so customers can have the choice of paying it or being dropped in a free area. Under the present "cost of living" fiasco we shouldn't have the usual knee jerk reaction put forward by certain parts of the trade. East Devon is already one of the most expensive areas in the country, let's try not to win that dubious title.

3.	
Respondent:	Hackney carriage driver and Proprietor - Exmouth
Fare rise necessary:	No
Attending:	No
Supporting documents	None
Summary of key points	Feedback from me is that it's unnecessary, I worry about customers being priced out of wanting to get a taxi, Exmouth isn't as busy as it once was... Also, if it's similar to the last one, it's not making money from my perspective. Taking the cars to

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	<p>Torquay losing time, adding mileage and paying for the meters to be done - would it not make more sense to do this less regularly than yearly and have a higher percentage rise if required?</p> <p>Having said that, if we can go back to miles instead of yards on the tariff sheets that would be great! When it was on mileage it was incredibly simple and accurate.</p> <p>With the Licensing & Enforcement Committee meetings, can I ask if opinions are honestly listened to?</p> <p>I went to the East Devon Taxi Association meeting that you guys didn't get invited to about the last raise and it was just a dictatorship that told us we either vote for what they wanted, or they'd step down and we wouldn't have any say ever again.</p>
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4.	
Respondent:	Hackney Carriage Driver and Proprietor – Sidmouth
Fare rise necessary:	Unsure
Attending:	No
Supporting documents	None
Summary of key points	Thanks for the information. Unfortunately I have a long journey that day, so will be unable to attend. I personally don't feel like we need the fares increased again at the moment; so difficult to know how long fuel prices are going to be elevated. However if other proprietors feel different, I am happy to go with the flow. So I'm giving you a 'sitting on the fence ' vote, rather than a 'no'.

5.	
Respondent:	Hackney Carriage Driver, Proprietor and Taxi Firm Owner – Honiton
Fare rise necessary:	No
Attending:	Not confirmed
Supporting documents	None
Summary of key points	<p>RE: Formal Objection to any Proposed Taxi Fare Increase</p> <p>I am writing to formally oppose any proposed increase in taxi fares. While fare increases are traditionally meant to support employers and drivers, the current</p>

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	<p>economic climate means a hike will severely harm both our livelihoods and our customers.</p> <p>We urge the committee to reject any increase based on the following critical factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe Cost-of-Living Pressures: Customers are already struggling with historic inflation and squeezed household budgets. • Widespread Passenger Resistance: Passengers frequently voice anger regarding current high tariffs, and further increases will push them away. • Immediate Deficit from Meter Upgrades: We must pay an immediate £60 update fee per vehicle just to implement the new rates. • Rising Driver Abuse: Financial frustration has caused a sharp increase in passengers verbally abusing and targeting drivers at the end of journeys. Some even have tried to refuse to pay. • Collapse of Discretionary Tips: Tipping has become virtually non-existent because passengers feel stretched to their absolute limit by the base fare. • Loss of Passenger Volume: Higher prices will inevitably drive some of the public to finding alternative ways of travel, permanently damaging our local industry. <p>A fare increase is a counterproductive measure that creates friction, costs employers and drivers money upfront, and reduces our overall takings by destroying public goodwill. We ask that you maintain the current fare structure to protect the viability of our local trade and the safety of our drivers.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and your consideration of our perspective.</p>
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6.	
Respondent:	Hackney Carriage Driver and Proprietor – Exmouth
Fare rise necessary:	No
Attending:	Yes - provisional
Supporting documents	None
Summary of key points	I feel that another increase would be futile at this present time as we cannot be sure of what will be the outcome of this latest fiasco. As a matter of interest,

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	a fare I do regularly used to meter £8.69 now meters £8.70! I shall endeavour to get to the meeting in Honiton.
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7.	
Respondent:	Hackney Carriage Driver, Proprietor and Taxi Firm Owner – Exmouth
Fare rise necessary:	Yes
Attending:	Yes
Supporting documents	None
Summary of key points	<p>We would like to see a 2-3% increase to be applied in November, being 12 months since the last increase, to keep us up with increasing costs.</p> <p>At the moment the increase in fuel is manageable short term.</p>

8.	
Respondent:	Hackney Driver and Vehicle Proprietor – Exmouth
Fare rise necessary:	Yes
Attending:	No
Supporting documents	None
Summary of key points	<p>Unfortunately, due to taxi bookings, I cannot attend personally, I have been asking for at least the last 2 years for it to be considered that a separate tariff be added to MPV Vehicles to compensate for the higher initial outlay, Vehicle price, Higher Insurance premiums, running costs and maintenance costs. I have been assured that this has been brought up before but no response has been forthcoming verbally or written.</p> <p>Could the Licencing Committee consider adding this amendment to the debate on Changes to the tariff please.</p>