

# Wokingham Borough Hackney Carriage Association

## Height standards

### Proposal.

54 inch entry height should be reduced and a specific list of vehicles provided.

### Reasons.

1. 54 inch entry height requirement can not be found in any other borough. Due to this strict criteria, most of models available in the market and acceptable as wheelchair accessible vehicles nationwide are completely rejected by Wokingham borough council.
2. Purpose built vehicles like Mercedes Vito, Peugeot partner, VW transporter and Toyota proace are excluded by the current policy. Even the traditional new London black cab has an entry height of 47 inches and even further reduced in their latest model. Another better choice is electric nissan nv200 which should be considered as a licence able vehicle.
3. Current policy has caused too much confusion in last 2 decades. And hundreds of thousands of pounds had been wasted at the cost of already struggling trade. The alarming situation is brewing and trade is still awaiting full, independent and impartial enquiry, especially after the outcome of the RAC report, which has reported 70% of the cars are licensed without serving any purpose. All the drivers are still in shock and feel helpless at the silence of the authorities for not calling a full investigation and point out the persons who failed to do their jobs properly.
4. Increase in first licensing age limit to 7 years will give some breathing space for drivers who are badly affected by confusing taxi policy. Especially those 70% of car owners which are reported non compliant by RAC. And these vehicles are neither wheelchair accessible nor as comfortable as saloons, so do not serve any purpose. Statistically Vehicle prices are reduced dramatically after 5 years. So this will help such drivers to change their vehicles and will provide a buffer to correct the alarming situation which is directly related to not providing concise policy taxi and licensing for nearly two decades. Electric cars like Nissan NV200 should be considered, as an option, for the above mentioned drivers.

### Summary:

It is therefore requested to the Appeal and Licensing Committee to give permission to standardization of vehicles and lower the height requirements

Yours sincerely,  
Muhammad Arshad  
Chairman



2/9/18

Wokingham Borough Hackney Carriage Association

# Wokingham Borough Hackney Carriage Association

## Licensing Age reversal

### Proposal.

Vehicle licensing age to be changed to 7 years for the first license and 18 years expiry for both hackney and private hire.

### Reasons.

1. We could not find any example of such strict age restrictions in any other licensing area as set for Wokingham borough taxi and licensing. Some Age limits for hackney carriages are as under.
  - a. West Berkshire. No age limit
  - b. Bracknell 5 for first license and no expiry.
  - c. Reading 18 years expiry
  - d. Private hires have no maximum age limit in reading, south Oxfordshire and bracknell.
2. as explained, the extra costs increases i.e. fuel, licensing fee, insurance premiums, inflation, VAT, and car prices in our fare review proposal and the reduction in trade, it is not possible to change our cars so frequently.
3. Cars are already being tested 3 times, which is excessive to national standards. ( council compliance 2 times a year and national MOT once a year being demanded).
4. Reduction in first licensing age limit to 7 years will give some breathing space for drivers who are badly affected by confusing taxi policy. Especially the 70% of cars are reported non compliant by RAC. And these vehicles are neither wheelchair accessible nor as comfortable as saloons, so do not serve any purpose. Statistically Vehicle prices are reduced dramatically after 5 years. So this will help such drivers to change their vehicles and will provide a buffer to correct the alarming situation which is directly related to not providing concise policy taxi and licensing for nearly two decades.
5. Electric cars should be considered, as an option, for the above mentioned drivers.
6. Private hire companies ask their drivers to change their vehicles when they think the car is too old. So council should not place a limit on private hire. Eight years limit can not be justified at all as these cars can not be sold and have to be scrapped after service at a huge cost to the owner and environment.
7. Many of the drivers have already switched to other councils due to this unfair policy and still using these cars after 8 years for the same wokingham private hire companies.as it is almost impossible to sell these cars after expiry.

### Summary:

# Wokingham Borough Hackney Carriage Association

## Tariff Increase

### Proposal.

Tariff Increase is imminent and not reviewed for nearly a decade. Considering the last few years and the prediction of next 5 years, we request a rise of 20% fare increase, extra tariff for festivals And 6 seater fares reinstated.

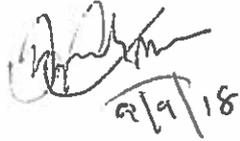
### Reasons.

1. Fuel increase, which is a main expense of our trade, is dramatically increased in 10 years. For example diesel price has risen from £ 1.05 in 2010 to £ 1.40 per litre. Statistics attached.
2. Licensing fee is increased dramatically last year by 56%. From £161 to £281.
3. Insurance premiums have risen by 52% and 1/3 in last 3 years alone.
4. VAT is increased from 15% to 20%. Which affects all the costs involved.
5. Inflation is dramatically increased in the last years due to Exports are reduced, pound sterling has lost its value and the uncertainty after Brexit fears. and was Recorded at 3.6% in 2017 and reported at 4.9% in 2018. And it is predicted to be as high as 7% in the next 5 years.
6. Car prices are dramatically increased. And we have to cover the extra cost of wheelchair conversion as high as 100% off the car's value.
7. Special tariff for festivals especially Henley regatta, equivalent to Henley taxis should be permitted.  
It takes at least twice as much it takes to do a job in busy traffic, many other unforeseen reasons and as a result almost every business charges extra to provide services on these occasions.
8. Accordingly to council's bylaws tariff should be consulted every year, but was ignored for last many years.
9. As all the private hire companies charging extra time and half for 5 and 6 seaters and even higher for 7 persons, and all neighbouring councils charging higher rate 4 move, we request to reinstate the 6 seater tariff.  
If council have received any complaints, those complaints should be directly addressed, rather than putting the blame/responsibility on the whole trade.

**Summery.**

It is therefore requested to the Appeal And Licensing Committee to look at the costs involved, increased inflation and future predictions, (as fares are unlikely to be changed in the near future again), we request to give us, ideally, 20% increase in fares, spacial regatta tariff and minibus tariff reinstated.

Yours sincerely,  
Muhammad Arshad  
Chairman



2/9/18

Wokingham Borough Hackney Carriage Association

# Historical UK inflation



Grahame Allen.

Year	Inflation	Multiplier
2018	<i>exp 4.9%</i>	1.00
2017	3.6%	1.04
2016	1.8%	1.05
2015	1.0%	1.07
2014	2.4%	1.09
2013	3.0%	1.12
2012	3.2%	1.16
2011	5.2%	1.22
2010	4.6%	1.28

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18th January 2017, 12:05 am

Updated: 21st February 2017, 4:46 pm

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**December 2018:**  
**(month over month,**  
**MOM)**

Inflation rate in 2017: 2.11%

Last 12 months inflation rate: (year over year, YOY) 1.91%

Last 60 months inflation rate (5 years): 7.80%

Last 120 months inflation rate (10 years): 19.51%

4 more rows • 26 Jan 2019

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