

Name	Vehicle/Driver/PHO License Number	Summary of Comments
Driver 1	Not provided	Mr Bashir comments on the increase in fees, in contrast with the drop in incomes, which he states generally have dropped by at least 80%, and his in particular by 90% in the past 11 months. Mr Bashir would have preferred a notification that fees have been reduced by at least 10% instead of increased, and expresses his lack of faith that his comments will make a difference, as to him it seems that the rules are set in stone.
Driver 2	PHD License Holder	Mr Taghinejad states how business has been declining, and for the previous 10 months, all cab drivers' incomes have been reduced by 90% or more. He elaborates on this point by saying how many drivers have left the business, some are only surviving by help from friends or family, and he personally uses his credit cards to pay for most of his expenses. Mr Taghinejad was expecting a letter setting out the Council will reduce all charges by half, or remove all charges for 2021, instead of a letter about price increases. Mr Taghinejad does not think that this is fair nor justified, and calls for all charges to be removed for existing drivers for 2021.
On behalf of all remaining Wokingham Taxi drivers – no name provided	Not provided	The Writer states that the cost proposal for a new or renewal licence is a 17% increase on last year's fee, and a 44% increase on the year before that's fee. They suggest that consultations are a waste of time, and are used to enforce unreasonable opinions and proposals by Council members with no experience in the trade, but also acknowledge the need to recuperate expenditures from grants and loans, suggesting that increasing licencing fees is the easiest way to do this. The Writer states that Covid-19 has destroyed taxi trade in Wokingham, as roads are quiet, trains and town centres are empty and traders are struggling to make ends meet. The Writer would like to know if it is the right time to make

		<p>the increase with the on/off lockdown situations. They also state that as there has been no explanation of how the new figure has been achieved, and knowing that rates have been put on hold and not reviewed for the past 10 years, would the Council also increase meter rates with the same percentage automatically to justify driver expenses increases.</p>
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