



Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 12 June 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the **Licensing Committee** is to be held at **Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX** on **Wednesday, 12 June 2019** at **09:30**.

BUSINESS

1. **Sederunt**
2. **Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests ***
3. **Minutes of meeting on 17 April 2019** **5 - 8**
4. **Written Questions ****
5. **Mandatory Review of Fairs and Charges Report** **9 - 32**
Report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services)
6. **Question Time *****

Consider any oral question on matters delegated to the Committee in terms of the Council's Scheme of Administration.

Summary of Licensing Committee functions:

To deal with all aspects of the issue of licenses by Local Authorities as required by Government; to deal with matters of Licensing and registration not falling within the functions of any other Committee.

Any person attending the meeting who requires access assistance should contact customer services on 01343 563217 in advance of the meeting.

GUIDANCE NOTES

* **Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests** - The Chair of the meeting shall seek declarations from any individual or political group at the beginning of a meeting whether any prior decision has been reached on how the individual or members of the group will vote on any item(s) of business on the Agenda, and if so on which item(s). A prior decision shall be one that the individual or the group deems to be mandatory on the individual or the group members such that the individual or the group members will be subject to sanctions should they not vote in accordance with the prior decision. Any such prior decisions will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.

** **Written Questions** - Any Member can put one written question about any relevant and competent business within the specified remits not already on the agenda, to the Chair provided it is received by the Proper Officer or Committee Services by 12 noon two working days prior to the day of the meeting. A copy of any written answer provided by the Chair will be tabled at the start of the relevant section of the meeting. The Member who has put the question may, after the answer has been given, ask one supplementary question directly related to the subject matter, but no discussion will be allowed.

No supplementary question can be put or answered more than 10 minutes after the Council has started on the relevant item of business, except with the consent of the Chair. If a Member does not have the opportunity to put a supplementary question because no time remains, then he or she can submit it in writing to the Proper Officer who will arrange for a written answer to be provided within 7 working days.

*** **Question Time** - At each ordinary meeting of the Committee ten minutes will be allowed for Members questions when any Member of the Committee can put a question to the Chair on any business within the remit of that Section of the Committee. The Member who has put the question may, after the answer has been given, ask one supplementary question directly related to the subject matter, but no discussion will be allowed.

No supplementary question can be put or answered more than ten minutes after the Committee has started on the relevant item of business, except with the consent of the Chair. If a Member does not have the opportunity to put a supplementary question because no time remains, then he/she can submit it in writing to the proper officer who will arrange for a written answer to be provided within seven working days.

Clerk Name: Tracey Sutherland

Clerk Telephone: 01343 563014

Clerk Email: tracey.sutherland@moray.gov.uk

THE MORAY COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

SEDERUNT

Councillor Amy Taylor (Chair)
Councillor Louise Laing (Depute Chair)
Councillor James Allan (Member)
Councillor Theresa Coull (Member)
Councillor Gordon Cowie (Member)
Councillor Paula Coy (Member)
Councillor John Divers (Member)
Councillor Ryan Edwards (Member)
Councillor Donald Gatt (Member)
Councillor Marc Macrae (Member)
Councillor Aaron McLean (Member)
Councillor Maria McLean (Member)
Councillor Ron Shepherd (Member)

Clerk Name: Tracey Sutherland
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Clerk Email: tracey.sutherland@moray.gov.uk

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 17 April 2019

Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

PRESENT

Councillor James Allan, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Gordon Cowie, Councillor Paula Coy, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Louise Laing, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Maria McLean, Councillor Ron Shepherd, Councillor Amy Taylor

APOLOGIES

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were Police Constable Ray Walker on behalf of Police Scotland, Sean Hoath, Senior Solicitor and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer.

1. Chair

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Amy Taylor.

2. Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests *

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillor's Code of Conduct there were no declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regards to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda. Councillor A Mclean declared an interest in respect of item 8 on the agenda and would leave the meeting at the end of item 7.

3. Minute of the Meeting on 20 February 2019

The minute of the meeting of the Licensing Committee dated 20 February 2019 was submitted and approved.

4. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

5. Application for Taxi Driver Licence TD-19-002

A report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) invited the Committee to

consider an application for the grant of a taxi driver licence received on 17 January 2019.

The Committee noted that the applicant was in attendance. The Chief Constable of Police Scotland was represented by Constable Ray Walker, Police Scotland.

Police Constable Walker, Police Scotland addressed the Committee.

The Applicant addressed the Committee and responded to questions raised by the Committee.

Following consideration, the Chair asked the applicant and Police Constable Walker if they were happy with the proceedings and if they felt they had received a fair hearing.

The applicant and Police Constable Walker advised that they were both happy with proceedings and confirmed that they felt they had received a fair hearing.

Councillor Shepherd, seconded by Councillor Macrae moved to grant the application for a Taxi Driver Licence in respect of Case No. TD-19-002.

Councillor Coy proposed an amendment to refuse the application for a Taxi Driver Licence as she was satisfied that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold a taxi driver licence having regard to the evidence presented. Therefore a ground for refusal existed and the Committee was obliged to refuse. This was seconded by Councillor Divers.

On the division there voted:

For the Motion (10)	Councillors Shepherd, Macrae, Allan, Coull, Cowie, Edwards, Gatt, A McLean, M McLean and Taylor
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For the Amendment (3) Councillors Coy, Divers and Laing

Abstentions (0)

Accordingly the motion became the finding of the meeting and Committee agreed to grant the application for a Taxi Driver Licence in respect of application TD-19/002.

6. Question Time ***

There were no further questions.

Councillor A McLean left the meeting at this juncture after having declared an interest in Item 8 on the agenda.

7. Application for Taxi Driver Licence - TD-19-003

A report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) invited the Committee to consider an application for the grant of a taxi driver licence received on 13 February 2019.

The Committee noted that the applicant was in attendance. The Chief Constable of Police Scotland was represented by Constable Ray Walker, Police Scotland.

Police Constable Walker, Police Scotland addressed the Committee.

The Applicant addressed the Committee and responded to questions raised by the Committee.

Following consideration, the Chair asked the applicant and Police Constable Walker if they were happy with the proceedings and if they felt they had received a fair hearing.

The applicant and Police Constable Walker advised that they were both happy with proceedings and confirmed that they felt they had received a fair hearing.

Councillor Macrae, seconded by Councillor M Mclean moved to grant the application for a Taxi Driver Licence in respect of Case No. TD-19-003.

Councillor Coy proposed an amendment to refuse the application for a Taxi Driver Licence as she was satisfied that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold a taxi driver licence having regard to the evidence presented. Therefore a ground for refusal existed and the Committee was obliged to refuse. This was seconded by Councillor Laing.

On the division there voted:

For the Motion (9)	Councillors Macrae, M McLean, Allan, Coull, Cowie, Edwards, Gatt, Shepherd and Taylor
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For the Amendment (3) Councillors Coy, Divers and Laing

Abstentions (0)

Accordingly the motion became the finding of the meeting and Committee agreed to grant the application for a Taxi Driver Licence in respect of application TD-19-003.



REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE ON 12 JUNE 2019

**SUBJECT: CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982-MANDATORY
REVIEW OF TAXI FARES AND CHARGES**

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks to invite the Committee to formulate a set of proposals for the maximum fares and charges applicable to taxis. There are no powers delegated to officers in this regard.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III F (1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the exercise of the function of the Council as licensing authority for the Moray Council area.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) considers and notes the views expressed by taxi operators in the informal consultation process;**
- ii) formulates a set of proposals for the maximum fares and charges applicable to taxis in Moray;**
- iii) instructs the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to conduct a formal consultation on those proposals as required by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982; and**
- iv) considers and notes the views expressed in the formal consultation at its next scheduled meeting in order to approve a revised fare structure for implementation on 29 December 2019.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In terms of section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council, as taxi licensing authority for the Moray Council area, is required to review the fees and charges in connection with the hire of taxis in its area. The fare card, as it is known, requires to be reviewed within 18 months beginning with the date that the previous fare card came into effect. The previous fare card was implemented on 29 June 2018. The fares and charges set are the maximum that can be charged so that, if the taxi operator so

chooses, she/he/they may charge less. The current maximum fares and charges, attached at **APPENDIX 1**, were agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 16 May 2018, and came into effect on 29 June 2018 (para. 6 of the minute refers). A review therefore needs to be completed by 29 December 2019.

3.2 In reviewing the fares, and before setting new ones, the licensing authority is required to undertake the following process:

- review the existing scales and propose new ones (whether at altered rates or the same rates);
- carry out a formal consultation on those proposals by way of newspaper advertisement inviting any person to lodge representations in writing to the Council within one (1) month of the date of publication of that advertisement and thereafter, consider any representations received and fix new maximum fares and charges; and
- inform operators off the decision, implementation date and the right of appeal.

3.3 Although not a requirement, it has been past practice to precede this process with informal consultation with taxi operators, undertaken by licensing officers, that is then reported to Committee and used by it when formulating proposals for new fares and charges upon which the formal public consultation is carried out. Again, although not a requirement, practice in the past has also been for the formal consultation stage to include contact with Community Councils, Local Area Forums and taxi operators within the same timescale.

4. INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH TAXI OPERATORS

4.1 There are currently 84 licensed taxi operators in Moray. Licensing officers, as part of preliminary consultations, approached all of them seeking their views on current fares and charges and any proposals for change. A small number of responses to the informal consultation, which ran from 16 April 2019 to 7 May 2019, have been received. One response received is in favour of keeping the current taxi fare structure the same, while two responses strongly urge the Committee to consider reducing the current taxi fares. A further response proposed that the Committee consider a 5% increase of fares each year and suggested that the rates should be amended as shown within Appendix 2. The tariffs proposed and detailed in Appendix 2 suggest a reduction of 10 pence to the distance fare and hires between 7pm-12pm. It also proposed an increase of 20 pence to all hires between 12pm-7am, an increase of 40 pence to all hires between 7am-12am on Sundays and Bank Holidays and a reduction of 5 pence to hires on festive holidays. Two of the responses received also proposed that the current fouling charge be increased. One consultee proposed an increase to £125.00, while a second consultee proposed an increase to £150.00. These responses have been collated in **APPENDIX 2** of this report.

5. PROPOSALS FOR MAXIMUM FARES AND CHARGES

5.1 The Committee is invited to formulate a set of proposals for the maximum fares and charges applicable to taxis in Moray, considering any responses received in the informal consultation process.

- 5.2 For the Committee's information and consideration are the following:
- 5.3 Attached is a table showing the Taxi Fare Review history from October 2002 to June 2018 detailed at **APPENDIX 3** of this report.
- 5.4 A report comparing the cost of fuel across the UK which accounts for the largest proportion of costs when running a vehicle (**APPENDIX 4**). This report has been prepared by the Automobile Association ("the AA") in March 2019. While the report produced by the AA has no official status, it may be instructive for the purpose of this review.
- 5.5 Although Appendix 4 provides the Committee with an indication of the cost of fuel, the Committee should also be mindful of standing charges and other running costs that relate to running a vehicle. These include the loss in value of a vehicle (depreciation), car insurance and car tax together with the day-to-day running costs of the vehicle which involves servicing, repairs and parking and tolls. Previously, the AA provided a summary of the various costs involved in running a vehicle. However, these reports are no longer provided by the AA, and as such officers are unable to provide any reports that illustrate the current rates for standing charges and day-to-day running costs. The Committee is invited to give due consideration to the inevitable need to meet these costs taking into consideration the rising cost of goods and services in the UK illustrated in Appendix 9 and further discussed at clause 5.11.
- 5.6 The current fees are:-

Copy of a Licence	£21
Taxi Booking Office	£481
Taxi/Private Hire - Driver Grant	£227
Taxi/Private Hire - Driver Renewal	£184
Taxi/Private Hire - Vehicle	£394
Variation of any Taxi/Private Hire Licence	£26
Licence Plates	£21 non-refundable
Vehicle Substitution	£330

- 5.7 Copies of the taxi fares and charges applicable in the Highland Council and Aberdeenshire Council areas are also produced for comparison purposes (**APPENDICES 5 and 6 respectively**).
- 5.8 For illustrative purposes, based on the current maximum fares the cost of a standard 5-mile taxi journey in the Moray Council area would be £15.60 (standard), £16.60 (late night) and £18.45. In the Highland Council (19 November 2018) area the same journey would cost £11.20 (standard) and in Aberdeenshire Council (1 November 2018) the fare would be £12.60 (standard), £13.60 (late night) and £18.90 (festive period).
- 5.9 There are also attached tables showing National Minimum Wages Rates (**APPENDIX 7**) and Wages in Moray (**APPENDIX 8**).

- 5.10 The Consumer Price Index (CPI) continues to be a National Statistic and is a measure of consumer price inflation produced to international standards and in line with European regulations. First published in 1997 as the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), the CPI is the inflation measure used in the Government's target for inflation. The CPI is also used for purposes such as uprating pensions, wages and benefits and can aid in the understanding of inflation on family budgets. A table showing the Consumer Price Index % change is shown in **APPENDIX 9**. The fuller bulletin is available using this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-consumer-price-inflation-sept-2018>
- 5.11 The CPIH chart shown in Appendix 9 reflects the cost pressures faced by households in the UK. The average costs of goods and services were at their highest in September 2008 (4.8%) and again in September 2011 (4.5%). This was quickly followed by a decline with prices being at their lowest in October 2015 (0.2%) which coincided with a recession in both the manufacturing and construction industry. Following an initial increase of the costs of goods and services in April 2017 (2.6%), inflation has now fallen once more and as of April 2019, the rate of inflation was valued at 2.1%, up from 1.8% in March 2019; However, the costs of inflation is on the increase once more and with the uncertainty of Brexit, it is predicted that inflation will continue to increase resulting in a further squeeze in living standards.
- 5.12 The Committee is invited to consider the responses from the informal consultation at Appendix 2 and thereafter formulate proposals for formal consultation.

6. FORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The Committee is invited to instruct the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to proceed with a public consultation on its agreed proposals for the maximum fares and charges.
- 6.2 The Committee is reminded that the fares set by the meter are the maximum fares that can be charged so that, if the taxi operator so chooses, s/he may charge less.
- 6.3 The matter will be brought back before the Committee on 6 November 2019 to enable the Committee to consider any responses to the formal consultation and fix the fare structure before 29 December 2019.

7. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The provisions of licensing directly relate to the priorities within the 10 Year Plan in relation to a growing and diverse economy and safer and healthier communities. The various licensable activities within industry all aid a growing economy in terms of production, retail and the positive effects on tourism. Regulation of the licensed activities contributes to a safer community by ensuring those providing licensable goods and services are fit to do so.

(b) Policy and Legal

The legal implications of a fare review are outlined above.

(c) Financial implications

The costs associated with the review of taxi fares are outlays relating to advertising costs estimated to be approximately £400. This can be met from existing budgets.

Any costs incurred by the Council's Fleet Services department in relation to resealing the taxi meters (if necessary) will require to be met by taxi operators. The cost of recalibrating the taxi meters (if necessary) will also require to be met by taxi operators.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no anticipated risk implications arising from this report.

(e) Staffing Implications

The only staffing implication arising from this report is in terms of the time taken to undertake consultation, draft the newspaper adverts, compile the responses to the consultation, draft further Committee reports and notify taxi operators of the outcome of the review. Whilst the time is considerable this can be met from existing resources.

(f) Property

There are no anticipated property implications arising from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An equalities impact assessment is not required in connection with this report. This is because one of the recommendations of this report is for a public consultation to be undertaken in relation to the taxi fare review.

(h) Consultations

Taxi operators were invited to submit a response to the informal consultation. Proposals recommended by the Committee will form the basis of the formal consultation with taxi operators and the public through being advertised in the local press.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Following the implementation of the fare card on 29 June 2018, the Council as licensing authority for Moray must begin the process of reviewing the fares, taking into consideration the relevant consultees views and determine whether the existing fare scales should be altered. In line with the licensing authority's statutory duty this review process needs to be progressed.**

Author of Report: Rhoda Banfro Solicitor (Litigation & Licensing)
Background Papers: None
Ref:

**THE MORAY COUNCIL
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
LICENSING OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS**

MAXIMUM CHARGES APPLICABLE TO HIRE OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS FITTED WITH TAXI METERS

<u>EXCLUSIVE HIRE</u>		
<u>THE DISTANCE FARE</u>		
a)	For the first mile	£3.60
b)	For every additional 1/10 th of a mile or part thereof	30p

EXTRAS

- (1) WAITING A sum calculated at the rate of £20.00 an hour. Waiting time to be charged 5 minutes after customer informed of arrival of taxi.

SURCHARGES

- (2) (Only one surcharge can be charged for each journey)
- (a) For each hiring between 7.00 p.m. and 12 midnight on any day except Sundays, 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st December and 1st and 2nd January a surcharge of £1.00.
- (b) For each hiring between 12 midnight and 7.00 a.m. on any day except 25th, 26th and 27th December, 1st, 2nd and 3rd January a surcharge of £1.70 applies.
- (c) For each hiring between 7.00 a.m. and 12 midnight on Sundays and Bank Holidays a surcharge of £1.50 applies.
- (d) For each hiring between 7.00 p.m. on 24th to 7.00 a.m. on 27th December inclusive and between 7.00 p.m. on 31st December to 7.00 a.m. on 3rd January inclusive a surcharge of 50% on the basic fare, subject to a minimum fare (after allowing for the surcharge) of £6.45.
- (3) For each hiring where more than four passengers are carried, a surcharge of 50% applies.
- (4) For each hiring pre booked, a surcharge of £0.50 applies.
- (5) A charge of £120.00 to every passenger fouling a taxi.

Complaints:

Any complaints regarding overcharging should be made in writing to the Moray Council Licensing team either by email to LicStandardsOfficers@moray.gov.uk or by letter to Council Headquarters, High Street, Elgin IV30 1BX. The licence number of the vehicle or its driver and the name of the company (if any) should be quoted.

ALASDAIR MCEACHAN
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
29 June 2018

Explanatory Notes

1. The Council is required to set maximum fares and charges for journeys in Taxis and Private Hire Cars fitted with Taximeters that it licences. Fares are reviewed at regular intervals of no more than 18 months. There is opportunity for the public and trade to participate in the setting on the levels of fares proposed in any review and taxi operators have the right to appeal against the fares and charges set down by the Council before they come into operation.
2. Please note that a taxi driver is not required to take you on a journey ending outside the Moray boundary. If the driver does agree to take you out with Moray, these maximum fares do not apply and it is up to you to reach agreement with the driver as to the fare. You should do this before you start.
3. The maximum fare you are required to pay is the sum calculated in accordance with the fares and charges above. These only apply within Moray.
4. If you are asked to pay VAT then this should be included as part of the fare and please ask for a proper VAT receipt.
5. It is up to you to decide whether you wish to give the driver a tip.
6. It is a criminal offence for you to take a taxi journey without having the money to pay for it.
7. Bank holidays are those referred to on the Scottish Government Website www.mygov.scot/scotland-bank-holidays

Informal Consultation Responses

Comments received from Taxi Trade regarding Taxi Fare Review

Reduction of the current taxi fares

"I would say rates are a bit high at the moment and are actually discouraging members of the public to use taxis, in fact numerous companies around Elgin and Moray are discounting fares and returning to the old fares".

Keeping taxi fares the same

Comment 1

"We are happy with the current fare structure".

Comment 2

I would strongly urge against any increases in the current tariff, save for the soiling charge being revised to £150. The previous increase, although the first for many years, was an enormous one, and another increase is certainly not justified in my opinion. Indeed, some firms are heavily discounting fares in some instances, almost down to previous prices. It will be interesting to see if they push for another increase in order that they can seemingly squeeze smaller operators further.

Further Proposals

Comment 1

"I think that the meter prices and the council rates should be automatically raised by 5% each year this way would be fair to everyone the customers wouldn't see a 33.3% price rise and freak out the council will see more income as will the taxi trade also the start rates should be altered to

Rate 1 £3.50

Rate 2 £4.50

Rate 3 £5.50

Rate 4 £5.50

Rate 6 £6.50

1/10th mile should remain at 30p

Waiting time should be £25 per hour

The fouling charge should be £125 and strictly enforced by the police".

Comment 2

"The soiling charge should be revised to £150"

FARE REVIEW HISTORY

June 2018	Increased fares and charges applied.
April 2017	No change to fares and charges.
August 2015	No change to fares and charges.
February 2014	Increased charges were applied
August 2012	Increased fares and charges were applied
February 2011	Increased fares and charges were applied
August 2009	no change to fares and charges but premium rate period extended
February 2008	no change to fares and charges
August 2006	Increased fares and charges applied
November 2004	No change to fares or charges
October 2002	Increased fares and charges were applied

Fuel price report (March 2019)

Unleaded prices have risen 1.5p from 119.5 p/litre to 121.0 p/litre.

Diesel prices have gone up 1.4p from 128.9 p/litre to 130.3 p/litre.

The price difference between diesel and unleaded is now 9.3 p/litre.

The **South East** has recorded the highest price for **unleaded** at 122.1 p/litre. **Northern Ireland** has recorded the lowest price for **unleaded** at 119.3 p/litre. The **South East** has recorded the highest **diesel** price at 131.1 p/litre. **Northern Ireland** has the cheapest **diesel** at 128.4 p/litre.

Supermarket prices for **unleaded** now average 117.6 p/litre. The gap between supermarket prices and the UK average for **unleaded** has grown to 3.4 p/litre.

Garages and Supermarkets	Unleaded 95 Octane (pence)		Diesel (pence)		Super Unleaded (pence)		LPG (pence)
	litres	(gallons)	litres	(gallons)	litres	(gallons)	
Northern Ireland	119.3	542.3	128.4	583.7	126.2	573.7	64.9
Scotland	120.8	549.2	130.5	593.3	133.9	608.7	0.0
Wales	120.0	545.5	129.6	589.2	127.4	579.2	0.0
North East	119.6	543.7	129.5	588.7	134.5	611.4	0.0
North West	120.4	547.3	129.9	590.5	131.1	596.0	0.0
Yorkshire & Humberside	120.0	545.5	129.7	589.6	133.6	607.4	0.0
West Midlands	121.0	550.1	130.3	592.4	135.1	614.2	69.9
East Midlands	121.0	550.1	130.4	592.8	132.1	600.5	0.0
Essex and East Anglia	121.7	553.3	130.8	594.6	132.9	604.2	57.7
London	121.8	553.7	130.9	595.1	134.1	609.6	0.0
South East	122.1	555.1	131.1	596.0	134.2	610.1	0.0
South West	121.4	551.9	130.6	593.7	131.4	597.4	0.0
UK AVERAGE	121.0	550.1	130.3	592.4	133.0	604.6	64.2
Per cent taken as Tax		64.6		61.1		60.2	

Supermarkets	Unleaded 95 Octane		Diesel		Super unleaded		LPG
	Litres	(gallons)	litres	(gallons)	litres	(gallons)	
SUPERMARKET AVERAGE	117.6	534.6	126.8	576.4	123.9	563.3	57.7
Per cent taken as Tax		65.9		62.4		63.4	

The AA's fuel price report uses data sourced from Experian Catalist (www.catalist.com)
They're an average of mid-month prices from the respective regions.

Fuel price report (March 2019)

EUROPE AND THE USA

Sources of overseas price comparisons:

European prices

- ec.europa weekly oil bulletins (18 March 2019)
- TCS Information Services (14 March 2018)

USA prices

- Energy Information Administration, US Dept. of Energy (18 March 2019)

Country	Currency	Local Currency per litre		UK pence per litre	
		Unleaded	Diesel	Unleaded	Diesel
Austria	Euro	1.21	1.21	103.39	103.48
Belgium	Euro	1.37	1.43	117.43	122.60
Czech Republic	Czech Koruna	30.43	31.45	100.98	104.37
Denmark	Danish Krone	11.78	10.63	134.69	121.54
Finland	Euro	1.48	1.44	126.35	122.92
France	Euro	1.48	1.46	127.20	125.30
Germany	Euro	1.35	1.26	115.30	107.93
Greece	Euro	1.56	1.39	133.89	118.90
Netherlands	Euro	1.62	1.37	138.94	117.10
Hungary	Forint	366.65	392.56	97.78	104.69
Ireland	Euro	1.36	1.33	116.41	113.84
Italy	Euro	1.55	1.50	133.12	128.18
Luxembourg	Euro	1.18	1.10	100.82	94.31
Estonia	Euro	1.28	1.30	109.99	111.53
Norway	Norwegian Krone	16.16	15.79	143.41	140.13
Latvia	Euro	1.21	1.20	103.52	102.92
Lithuania	Euro	1.14	1.14	98.03	97.56
Poland	Zloty	4.77	5.08	94.85	101.02
Slovakia	Euro	1.30	1.24	111.02	106.56
Slovenia	Euro	1.26	1.26	107.67	108.25
Portugal	Euro	1.47	1.39	126.01	119.41
Spain	Euro	1.27	1.23	108.61	105.37
Sweden	Swedish Krona	15.29	16.00	125.17	130.98
Switzerland	Swiss Francs	1.55	1.73	118.14	131.86
United States of America	US Dollars	0.67	0.81	50.88	61.51
Malta	Euro	1.36	1.23	116.50	105.36
Bulgaria	Leva	2.04	2.19	89.01	95.56
Cyprus	Euro	1.16	1.24	99.26	106.63
Romania	New Leu	5.46	5.76	97.97	103.36

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

TAXI FARES

In accordance with the requirements of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Highland Council has reviewed the **maximum level** of charges for the hire of Taxis or Private Hire Cars fitted with Taxi Meters.

With effect from 19 November 2018, the maximum fares will be as follows:-

Tariff 1: Applies to vehicles carrying up to 4 passengers, except when a higher tariff applies.

- For the first 785 yards or part; or £3.00
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 98 yards or part; or .10p
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or
A combination of additional time and distance as above

General effect – the price of a hire £4.00 for the first mile plus £1.80 per mile thereafter plus extras*

Tariff 2: Applies to vehicles carrying up to 4 passengers on Good Friday, Easter Monday or May Day and, except when a higher tariff applies, between **9.00pm and 7.00am on any day** and all day on Saturday and Sunday. When 5 or more passengers are being carried, it also applies **at any time** of any day or night, except where a higher tariff applies.

- For the first 560 yards or part £ 3.30
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 78 yards or part .10p
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or
A combination of additional time and distance as above

General effect – the price of a hire £4.90 for the first mile plus £2.30 per mile thereafter plus extras*

Tariff 3: Applies between 6am and midnight on both Boxing Day and 2nd January. When 5 or more passengers are being carried, and except where Tariff 5 applies, it also applies between **9.00pm and 7.00am**, all day on Saturday and Sunday and on Good Friday, Easter Monday and May Day.

- For the first 444 yards or part £ 3.90
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 65 yards or part .10p
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or
A combination of additional time and distance as above

General effect – the price of a hire £6.00 for the first mile plus £2.70 per mile thereafter plus extras*

Tariff 4: Applies to vehicles carrying up to 4 passengers at any time between 6.00pm on Christmas Eve and 6.00am on Boxing Day and between 6.00pm on New Year's Eve and 6.00am on 2 January.

- For the first 444 yards or part; or £3.90
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 49 yards or part, or .10p
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or
A combination of additional time and distance as above

General effect – the price of a hire: £6.60 for the first mile plus £3.60 per mile thereafter plus extras*

Tariff 5: Applies to vehicles carrying 5 or more passengers at any time between 6.00pm on Christmas Eve and 6.00am on Boxing Day and between 6.00pm on New Year's Eve and 6.00am on 2 January.

- For the first 444 yards or part; or £3.90
The initial period of waiting time of 119 seconds; or
A combination of time and distance as above
- For each additional 39 yards or part, or .10p
Each additional period of waiting time of 14 seconds; or
A combination of additional time and distance as above

General effect – the price of a hire: £7.30 for the first mile plus £4.50 per mile thereafter plus extras*

***Extra Charges**

- Booking ahead e.g. by telephone £1.00
- Any bridge tolls or ferry charges, where applicable.
- Any airport car parking charges (Only chargeable on production of a receipt to the hirer)

In addition, a supplementary booking charge may be applied to compensate for the cost of the outward journey for hires which commence 3 miles or more away from the taxi or taxi base (whichever is the nearer). The maximum charge shall be the actual cost at the tariff which applies at the time of travelling between the starting location of the taxi or the location of the taxi base (as the case may be) and the pick-up point or drop-off point, whichever is the closer to the taxi or taxi base. This booking charge is in addition to the fare chargeable at the appropriate tariff for the journey from the pick-up point to the drop-off point. This charge may only be demanded if the customer is informed of the amount of the charge at the time of booking.

When a taxi (or a private hire car fitted with a taxi meter) is called but not used, a charge shall be allowed as if it had been occupied from the time it left the stance or garage.

Soiling Charge – maximum of £100.00 payable by an offending passenger, where a vehicle requires to be removed from service for cleaning in order for it to be restored to a usable state and condition.



Fare Scale (From 1st November 2018)

	Standard	10 pm to 6 am ^{1.}	Xmas/New Year ^{2.}
The FIRST 880 YARDS or part thereof	£2.60	£3.60	£3.90
Each additional 1/11th part of a mile or part thereof	£0.20	£0.20	£0.30
Waiting: 10 pence per	10 seconds	10 seconds	10 seconds

1. The late-night scale applies Mondays – Thursdays and also applies at weekends between 1800 on Fridays until 0600 on Mondays
2. The late-night scale applies to Public Holidays also from 0600 to 2200. Public Holidays are defined as 3 January, Good Friday, and May Day Public Holiday.
3. The Festive Season tariff applies to each hiring between 1800 Hrs 24 December until 0600 Hrs 27 December, and between 1800 Hrs 31 December until 0600 Hrs 3 January.
4. In vehicles so licensed carrying more than four passengers, a surcharge of 50% of the above fares may be charged.

Booking Fee - £0.50 (£2.00 if picking up a pre-booked fare to and from the Airport) – to be shown on the meter

NOTE

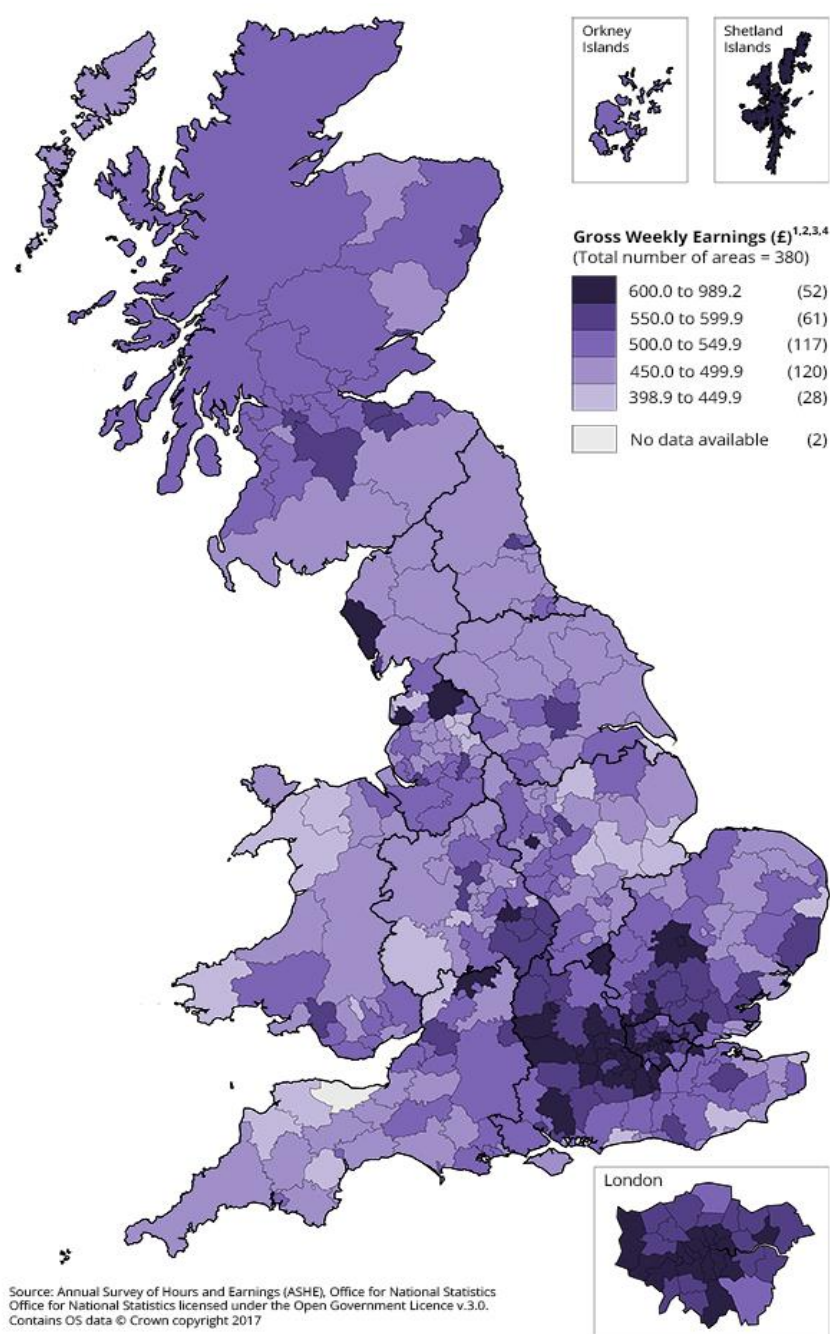
Passengers are carried on the understanding that the Driver may charge a passenger creating an unacceptable mess in the Taxi a maximum of £50

Current rates for National Minimum Wage

Year	25 and over	21 to 24	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2019	£8.21	£7.70	£6.15	£4.35	£3.90
April 2018 to March 2019	£7.83	£7.38	£5.90	£4.20	£3.70
April 2017 to March 2018	£7.50	£7.05	£5.60	£4.05	£3.50
October 2016 to March 2017	£7.20	£6.95	£5.55	£4.00	£3.40
April 2016 to September 2016	£7.20	£6.70	£5.30	£3.87	£3.30

Figure 13: Median full-time gross weekly earnings by place of work, Great Britain, April 2017

Local authority districts



¹ Employees on adults rates, pay unaffected by absence.

² Full-time defined as employees working more than 30 paid hours per week (or 25 or more for the teaching professions).

³ 2017 data are provisional.

⁴ Data are not available for West Somerset and the Isles of Scilly, because they are suppressed on account of quality issues.

Chart

