

From: [Bracknell Taxi Drivers](#)
To: [John Porter](#); [Michael Brossard](#); [Paul Bettison](#); [Kevin Gibbs](#); [Damian James](#); [Timothy Wheadon](#); [Sean Murphy](#); [julia.obrien](#); [Niamh Kelly](#); [Rhianne Arthur](#)
Subject: Licensing committee meeting: 22nd October 2020
Date: 03 October 2020 02:34:20

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Dear all,

We would like to submit a formal request for the following concerns listed below to be discussed in the licensing meeting on the 22nd October 2020.

1) Charge for age of vehicle check:

This fee was introduced without any consultation with the trade. The first we heard of it was when our fellow drivers began to complain about being charged £57.50 to have their vehicle's mileage noted and interior/exterior condition judged by visual appearance. When we asked the council the reason for the fee, we were told the RAC charge a fee for this - which is completely irrelevant as a RAC check would consist of a 218 point check 3 mile test drive in a written report, plus they come to the vehicle, when a problem occurs. Our vehicles already have an MOT and Hackney Carriage test every 6 months, which notes any damage, wear and tear and our mileages, which are sent to the council. We practically pay £57.50 for the Licensing officer to note down our mileage and roughly look in and around our car, which takes around 10 minutes. We think that this is outrageous, as this is an unnecessary waste of time and an unnecessary fee on top of the fees we already pay to the council.

2) Some drivers have not worked since March, due to Covid-19 - for various reasons i.e: living with elderly parents, being vulnerable themselves or having vulnerable family members, etc. These drivers' licences and badges have either expired or will expire soon. When the council were approached to see if they could have their badges and licences put on hold until they felt it was safe for them to return to work, the council allowed us to put it on hold for only 6 months, but they told us that we were to pay the backdated fee from the date the badges/licenses expired, even though most of them expired at the start of the pandemic, where we weren't working regardless (for example: my plate, Manoj: plate 36, expired in March, however the council told me to pay for my new license from April, even though I had no intention of working anytime soon, for the protection of my family). If we did not conform to these irrational demands, the authority said that we would forfeit our licence and badge, meaning we would no longer be taxi drivers and we would have to resit and pay for all of our tests and courses again - like we are new applicants, even though we have had no income for almost half a year. We think this is very unfair treatment from the authority as the Government has stated on several occasions, that nobody should be significantly financially affected, due to Covid (this is most of the drivers' main source of income). All we are asking for is that our licences and badges be put on hold until we feel safe enough to return to work and pay from that date.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you,

Kindest regards

Manoj Lacximicanta and Kevin Moore on behalf of Bracknell Taxi Drivers

