

A Summary of the comments received during the 2022 Statutory Consultation on Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators Fees.

Response 1: Letter submitted on behalf of the Bracknell Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association which was signed by 48 of the 53 Drivers

Request that the £236 vehicle license renewal fee be capped for a further year.

The reason is:

The Bracknell taxi trade is in danger of disappearing and we are still struggling badly with a lack of work with long waits in queues waiting in between each fare. It has not yet recovered from the pandemic, as we mentioned earlier in recent meetings, we hope you will come to make the right decision to take care of our trade, otherwise this taxi trade will disappear completely.

You know about the cost of living, due to the high rates of electricity, fuel, car maintenance, food, etc. So please use careful deliberation on this.

Response 2: from an Operator

We would request that the fees be capped for further year because the business has not recovered since the pandemic.

Response 3 from an Operator

Having thought about this proposal for the past month, I am concerned that these increases will further endanger the Bracknell taxi trade which has been under immense pressure since the pandemic and continues to struggle. I am also concerned that this will further disincentives' new drivers from joining the trade.

With regards the operator's licenses, again the increase is unjustified and further harms the people working in this field. I am generally opposed to the decision to have the operator's license tiered by the number of vehicles, preferring instead a banded system if they are to be tiered at all, i.e. 1 to 10 - 11 to 20 etc. Making it so every time you take on a new driver you have to call the council and then pay an extra £80 + £64 when our doing so in no way affects the council, is overpriced to the point of unfairness.

At a time when inflation is still much too high and people are feeling the pinch, a trend that is predicted to continue for several years to come, this price rise contributes to that problem.