

BERRY STREET GARAGE

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BY HAND

8th October 2019

Ref: Tax & Private Hire Increase in Fees

Dear Mr Moore

I am writing to enter my objections to the price increase proposed in The Champion paper on 2nd October 2019. As an active member representative of the trade group and the biggest user within the service I raised my concerns when I petitioned the Councillors. I have been in discussions with Mr Wood and Mr Toohey and these are ongoing with a meeting scheduled for later this month. I reserve the right to withdraw or amend our objections following this meeting.

I object to the fare increase for the following reasons:

Sefton Council have failed to justify the 15% increase across all licensing and errors have been noted in the basic accounting offered thus far. The increase in staff and costs to run the service are not reasonable and the fees collected are ring fenced by legislation and with a failure to evidence the increased running cost we cannot be sure that the cost are justified.

Sefton Council have failed to take into account the recent high court judgement *Reham v Wakefield* in relation to the separate licensing of drivers and vehicles. Sefton Council recently decided at the L&R meeting that the 15% increase across the whole fees would cover the shortfall in covering the running costs but have failed to consider the "actual" costs of running each licence under the LGMPA. The judgement further stated that the actual licensing regime should not necessarily be completely self-funding and therefore could be met by each council and not the trade. This proposed increase is a clear contradiction to that high court judgement.

Without the proper accounting methods and evidence showing the actual running costs and a clear breakdown of everything involved then we cannot accept the increase as is. We have put forward alternatives that may be acceptable to the trade and these will be discussed later this month.

Note that if Sefton Council reject our objections and proceed with this increase then we will look to challenge this decision by way of a Judicial Review within 3 months of the decision being made. (L&R decision being the first time we were aware so the 3 months started then)

Regards

Joseph Johnson

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P Moore Esq.,
Magdalen House,
Trinity Road,
Bootle.

Dear Mr Moore

Fee increase taxi & PH trades

I have read Mr Johnson's objections to the advertised fee increase for the confirm and adopt his objections.

I would add that I also ask for a breakdown showing the unit costs (hourly with the One Stop shops) in making the appropriate statutory decisions, showing any proper non statutory calculations. Please also show how elsewhere are forensically justified, in a similar manner.

Such calculations must demonstrate how an increase is proper, have cost basis that staff grades have been altered, if so, how & why?

If there are any other methods of calculation please set them out..

The new proposals must be forensically demonstrated & justified.

The report to the Licensing & Regulatory Committee stated that the pre charged the true cost; please also demonstrate this forensically, not anecdote that consideration can only be relevant to costings arising from the C profitability is not doubted or in question?

Please show how SMBC comply, or propose to comply, with Rehman v Wak

Please reply by email to: jarmanrichard@gmail.com.

I have copied this by email to Mr Woods.

Regards


Richard Jarman

(South Sefton Hackney Carriage Association)