

Southampton's Combined Taxi Trade's Proposed Variation of the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares for 2014

February 2014

Southampton's Combined Taxi Trade that represents the Southampton Trade Association (STA), Southampton Hackney Association (SHA) and the Unite Union Cab Section is requesting the following increase to the Southampton City Council Table of Fares.

Although the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stated in December 2013 inflation was at 2% and the Retail Price Index (RPI) stated in December inflation was at 2.7% and that may be the case across certain selected items for the general public, for anyone running motor vehicle the picture is somewhat different. For the Taxi Trade the main concerns that effect its survival are items such as fuel, insurance, licensing, servicing and the replacement costs of the vehicles themselves. Of those items the only category that has reduced slightly is the fuel costs and although this is a major part of the Taxi Trade's expenses, this reduction has been more than over taken by increasing cost in all the other categories. For example insurance costs have increased by 7.5% over the last year and servicing costs by 9.5%.

The Taxi Trade being more in touch with the general public realise that the strain on the public's finances is still high for everyone but it still needs to maintain the standards expected of it. Therefore a small increase is necessary to keep pace with current costs.

The tariff variation the Combined Taxi Trade is proposing will increase the overall cost of a journey by no more than 3% no matter how far the journey travels. The Taxi Trade also feel that the travelling public will understand the need for a small increase because of the pressure on the drivers. This fare variation has been constructed to make only a small change to the current tariff structure and all taximeters should be able to make the changes easily.

The proposed increase to the structure is that the initial displayed fare during the Day Time Tariff (Tariff 1) should be increased by 0.20p to £2.80 followed by a reduced three 110 metre drops of £0.20 and then every subsequent £0.20p drop after the first 330 metres would also be reduced by 5 metres to 195 metres. The Night Time Tariff (Tariff 2) would follow the same drop sequence and measurements and the initial displayed fare would also be increased by £0.25p to £3.70 and each subsequent drop remains at £0.25.

The current waiting time will not change as well as the Sunday and Bank Holiday Tariffs. The Trade also propose that the current Tariff for Christmas and New Year will also remain the same as well as the soiling charge and the multi seat vehicle charge over 4 passengers.

There is a cost to increase the tariffs in the taximeters and prices do vary but we estimate that cost can be recouped in between 10 to 12 days as the increase on the average 3 mile journey is 22p and most drivers will do at least 10 journeys per day.

Yours sincerely

Mr C Johnson
Chairman
On behalf of the Southampton's Combined Taxi Trade