

I would like to tender a fare increase application for Hackney Carriage vehicles in BCBC. We have not had an increase since September 2022 and since that time there has been massive increases in costs of running a Hackney Carriage vehicle plus the cost of living crisis in this country we have had to endure.

Please find below the increases I propose for each Tariff and waiting time:

Tariff 1: £3.90 for the first 1/2 mile or part thereof/£2.50 for each subsequent mile/£0.10 per 1/25 of a mile.

Tariff 2: £4.80 for the first 1/2 mile or part thereof/£2.70 for each subsequent mile/£0.10 per 1/27 of a mile.

Tariff 3: £6.00 for the first mile ½ mile or part thereof/£2.90 for each subsequent mile/£0.10 per 1/29 of a mile.

Tariff 4: £7.20 for the first ½ mile or part thereof/£3.40 for each subsequent mile/£0.10 per 1/34 of a mile.

Waiting Time: £0.40 per minute.

All extra charges shall remain the same as well as the bank holiday and Christmas times and tariffs shown in the current Tariff sheet for BCBC.

The primary reasons for a fare increase are:

- Soaring running costs :Operators have endured significant spikes in fuel prices and vehicle maintenance. Plus the increased cost of taxi insurance premiums over the last 4 years.
- Cost of Living Crisis: Inflation has substantially eroded the real-terms income of drivers,making it difficult to maintain a viable living wages while absorbing operational overheads.
- Fleet decline and Driver Retention: Inadequate fare structure often results in drivers leaving thetrade for better paying sectors or private hire vehicles.We have an ageing team of drivers and need to attract a younger generation to the trade.
- Falling Behind Averages: Bridgend's fares historically lag behind the regional and national averages.
- Bridgend has some of the toughest standards to meet in relation to licencing both vehicles and drivers.This makes running a hackney carriage vehicle very expensive in relation to private hire vehicles from out of the area who are now working in Bridgend County. I and many of the other multi vehicle owner are now looking at our options in relation to changing from Bridgend County hackney carriage vehicles to out of area private hire vehicles.This will substantially cut our vehicle costs and we can then charge private hire fares on all bookings.